

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

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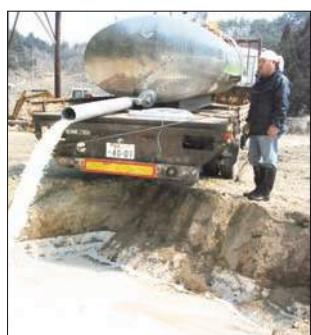
INSIDE



Cobra Found

An Egyptian cobra that went missing at the Bronx Zoo has been found after nearly a week.

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Radiation Crisis

Radiation has seeped into groundwater under a tsunami-crippled Japanese nuclear plant.

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Two Out

Naima Adedapo and Thia Megia are no longer standing on "American Idol."

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DHS misses deadline again to issue guest worker rules

» **US House subcommittee to hold oversight hearing**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security missed its self-imposed deadline to issue the CNMI-only transitional worker regulations by March this year, much to the disappointment of government officials, employers, and nonresident workers.

DHS also missed its prior self-imposed deadline of September 2010 to produce the worker regulations.

The U.S. House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, which has jurisdiction over insular areas, said that it will hold an oversight hearing on the implementation of federal immigration law in the CNMI.

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\$102M budget plan for 2012

» **DPH excluded from budget due to privatization plan**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial submitted to the

less than the \$132 million original budget for the current year.

The 2012 proposed budget is also close to the estimated government revenues and related economic activity in the 1990s or some 20 years ago.

The Legislature received the governor's proposed budget at 5:15pm by the April Fool's Day deadline.

The estimated gross budgetary resource for 2012 is \$120.679 million.

Of this amount, only \$102 million is available for appropriations to government agencies, except the Department of Public Health, which is expected to be privatized as early as July or before the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

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4 mayors accept governor's budget

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

They didn't get what they asked for, but the four mayors accepted Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's proposed budget for their municipalities in fiscal year 2012.

A closed-door governor's council

meeting lasted for one-and-a-half hours that began at 10am, or an hour late from the original schedule.

Fitial met with Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and Northern Islands Mayor Tobias Aldan in the governor's conference room.

His special assistant for management and budget, Vicki Villagomez, acting Finance secretary Larrisa Larson, press secretary Angel Demapan, a representative from the Carolinian Affairs Office and key staffers of the mayors were also present.

The mayors, in separate interviews after the meeting, said if anything, they're

See MAYORS on Page 4

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, seated, is flanked by, from left, Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, Northern Islands Mayor Tobias Aldan, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores and Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz after the governor's council meeting on the fiscal year 2012 budget on Capital Hill yesterday morning. The governor's proposed budget, submitted to the Legislature at past 5pm yesterday to beat the April 1 deadline, is down to \$102 million.

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Local

Fitial's claim of 3,000 overstayers 'not believable'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed said he does not believe that there

are now almost 3,000 "overstayers" or foreigners who are staying illegally in the CNMI, as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had recently claimed.

Syed, in an interview with

Saipan Tribune yesterday, questioned how the administration defines "overstayers" when in fact nonresidents were issued umbrella permits.

"That would be a legal issue,"

Syed said.

He said it is possible that the administration included on their "overstayers" list some of the hundreds of people who are still owed unpaid wages

and damages in the amount of \$6.1 million.

Syed said if these workers have pending claims, they have legal status to stay in the CNMI as they need to work to recover

their money.

He said workers who did not get paid and were abandoned by former employers should be treated differently.

Syed said if criminals are on the list of "overstayers" then they have no problem with it.

In her *Unheard No More* blog, human rights advocate Wendy Doromal questioned how can there suddenly be 3,000 "illegals" in the CNMI.

"Are these nonresidents who have umbrella permits, but refused to report to the CNMI Department of Labor since they do not have to?" Doromal asked.

She stressed that nonresidents who were given umbrella permits and have since lost their jobs are not illegal under federal law.

"So who are these 3,000 people? Let's see a list," Doromal said.

Fitial told the media on Wednesday that close to 3,000 overstayers need to be deported.

Fitial said he brought up this matter with Gary Mead, the executive associate director for Enforcement and Removal Operations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement under the Department of Homeland Security, during his visit to Washington, D.C. in February.

Fitial said these overstayers have been competing with local residents for a limited number of jobs.

April is Autism Awareness Month

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

With the dramatic increase in the number of people diagnosed with autism or related autism spectrum disorder, autism has become an issue that cannot be ignored and needs greater awareness in the community.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos emphasized this point yesterday afternoon with the signing of a proclamation designating April as Autism Awareness Month.

Members of the Autism Society of the CNMI and other supporters witnessed the proclamation signing at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. office in Gualo Rai.

Autism is "a developmental disability that affects the brain in the areas of reasoning, social interaction, behaviors, and communication skills," and the manner in which people are affected differs with each person.

Based on the findings of the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the non-profit group Autism Speaks in 2008, one out of every 110 Americans, including one out of 70 boys, has been diagnosed with autism or related autism spectrum disorder.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated center, is flanked by members and supporters of the Autism Society of the CNMI during the proclamation signing designating April as Autism Awareness Month yesterday afternoon at the NMPASI office.

the United States from 2002 to 2006, as well as a 600-percent increase in the past 20 years, prompting many professionals to classify it as an epidemic.

"It is of utmost importance that the CNMI become more aware of this disability as the number of individuals being diagnosed continues to rise and

the resources available to these individuals are in need of much improvement to help these individuals reach their maximum potential in life," read the proclamation.

Inos thanked parents of children with autism and the ASCNMI for their efforts to promote awareness about the development

mental disability.

"Thank you for coming forward to help these kids to live the kind of lives we all wish for. Let's continue to help them because they're really very special," he told his audience.

Larissa Larson of the ASCNMI said that while the Commonwealth has come a long way regarding autism, a lot of work still needs to be done to increase awareness and make the community understand the disability.

"It's very important that people learn about it because it will touch their lives in one way or another, whether it be a family member, a friend, a neighbor down the street. Everyone is going to get to a point where they know someone with autism. The more you learn about the disability, the more you can understand it and help make the life of a person with autism better," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Larson said ASCNMI, created in January 2006 by families and friends of children with autism, aims to make people become aware of autism to make them understand.

Foremost awards winners of non-fat milk promo

Foremost Foods Saipan presented the prizes to the winners of the "Get Fit with Non-Fat Milk & Win" promo at the Transpac Business Center March 25.

Grand prize winner Charmaine Joy R. Roquelara won an

adult-size bike and a child-size bike. The 29-year-old Dandan resident said that this was the first time for her to win in any raffle promo and was astonished when she was informed that she won the top prizes. "I was actu-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Charmaine Joy R. Roquelara wins the Foremost "Get Fit with Non-Fat Milk & Win" promo grand prize, an adult-size bike with 24-inch wheels and a child-size bike with 20-inch wheels. Rusty M. Loyola, operations manager of Foremost Foods Saipan, presents the prize during an awards ceremony held at the Transpacific Business Center on March 25.

ally at an account bidding when the call from Glimpses came. I couldn't believe that I won because I've never won anything before," Roquelara said.

Since her son Raiden Jay likes the taste of non-fat milk, she invariably gets Foremost Non-fat Milk in bulk and receives the corresponding entry coupons. "I've sent so many entries I've lost count," Roquelara says.

Baby grand prize winner Petelyn H. Camacho of Chalan Galade plans on using her \$200



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Winners of the "Get Fit with Non-Fat Milk & Win" promo and managers of Foremost Foods Saipan gather for a group photo during the prize presentation ceremony held at the Transpacific Business Center in March. From left are Glen D. Hunter, group business manager, Foremost; Marvin J. Pangelinan, winner of \$50 Foremost Gift Certificate; Geraldine M. Sabio, \$50 Subway Gift Card winner; Petelyn H. Camacho, winner of \$200 sporting goods gift certificate; Charmaine Joy R. Roquelara, grand prize winner; Gerry Hemley, sales supervisor, Foremost; and Rusty M. Loyola, operations manager.

sporting goods gift certificate to purchase sports products to help her family stay fit.

The 33-year-old mom says she is happy to have switched to non-fat milk ever since she weaned her two boys, Vidal Jose, 5, and Irie Kane, 3. "My kids like non-fat milk because it's light and I myself like it with coffee," Camacho said.

Joining the lucky group are special prize winners Barbie R. Iglesias, Geraldine M. Sabio, and Marvin J. Pangelinan. Iglesias and Sabio each went home with a \$50 Subway Gift Card while Marvin J. Pangelinan will have a choice of Foremost products after winning a \$50 Foremost Gift Certificate.

The Foremost "Get Fit with Non-Fat Milk & Win" promo ran from Jan. 12, 2011, to March 14, 2011. The grand drawing was held at Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center in Garapan on March 18, 2011.

Foremost group business manager Glen D. Hunter says

that he was pleased with the overwhelming support the community has shown to the non-fat milk promo and to healthy food choices.

"We're happy to see the people in our community selecting foods that are of great nutritional value. Foremost will continue to be a community partner in achieving health and fitness goals by making our non-fat milk and other healthful products readily available at the stores," Hunter said. (PR)



UNDER REPAIR

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A construction worker is seen through a glass window while replacing the tiles in the office of the Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill Thursday afternoon. This is part of at least \$285,950 in long-overdue renovation of the Juan Atalig Sablan Memorial Building, which includes replacement of termite-infested wooden panels and installation of an elevator now just awaiting certification before it could be used by the public.

Preparations begin for 2012 Economic Census

Every five years, the U.S. Census Bureau and the CNMI Department of Commerce conduct the Economic Census where all business' sales, annual payroll, employment and other key business information are counted to provide a clear indicator of the economy.

The last Economic Census was conducted in 2007.

The Economic Census was used as a source for the Gross Domestic Product calculations and for measuring various employment statistics.

This week, the U.S. Census Bureau sent branch chief Lee Wentela and project lead Geoffrey Hill to the CNMI to test forms and new questions for the 2012 Economic Census of Businesses. They hope to sit down with a few businesses and assess whether the questionnaire is easy to provide responses to.

"The survey will begin in September of 2012, but preparations have already been underway," said press secretary Angel Demapan.

"We hope time spent with a few businesses today will save time and prevent confusion

when the time comes to fill out the 2012 Economic Census. As we find better ways to ask the questions, we make modifications to make the forms business friendly," said Hill.

"We like to thank the businesses for their cooperation to improve the quality of the economic census and the CNMI government officials for their assistance," said Wentela.

To access the 2007 Economic Census, visit: <http://www.census.gov/econ/islandareas/index.html>. (PR)

NAVFAC Pacific launches cultural resources website

PEARL HARBOR—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific began seeking public input this week regarding the identification and evaluation of historic properties for several proposed actions associated with Marine Corps relocation efforts from Okinawa to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Mail-in comment forms are available at the Guam State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). In addition to accepting comments by mail, NAVFAC Pacific set up a Cultural Resources Information (CRI) website at www.bit.ly/NAVFAC-GuamPA for the public and consulting parties to participate in the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process, by providing comments directly to the Navy.

"During the process of developing the Programmatic Agreement, the Guam State Historic Preservation Officer, Lynda Aguon, strongly emphasized the importance of providing the maximum amount of opportunities for the public to participate in the consultation process, and we agreed that the CRI website would be the most appropriate avenue to reach out to the

public," said NAVFAC Pacific archaeologist Val Curtis.

The cultural resources information website is important because it affords the public an opportunity to provide comments on the identification and evaluation of historic properties that may be affected during the build-up process.

The relocation of Marines from Okinawa enhances the readiness of U.S. joint forces in the Pacific theater and operational capabilities of the III Marine Expeditionary Force. To support this effort, and in accordance with the PA, the CRI website was set up to identify areas under study for the determination of cultural or historic eligibility, and to provide information and appropriate supporting documentation regarding the Navy's identification and evaluation process for specific project sites.

The PA is an agreement among signatories to ensure appropriate consideration of historic sites and cultural resources on Guam and the CNMI in those areas where construction projects may affect historic properties. It is a component of Section 106 of the NHPA, which requires federal agencies to consider the effects of

their projects on historic properties.

"It took awhile to get signed, but we know the final version of the PA is a great win-win for the DoD and the people of Guam and CNMI," said Dr. Eric West, supervisory archaeologist for NAVFAC Pacific. "We look forward to working with the parties to the PA and the public as we begin this important endeavor."

All appropriate comments received during the comment period will be posted on the CRI website. NAVFAC Pacific will take into account comments received within 45 days of the date of delivery of PA memos to the SHPO, and public notification of the memos on the CRI website.

Some members of the public who are new to browsing a military (dot.mil) web site may receive the following message: "Certificate Error: Navigation Blocked. There is a problem with this website's security certificate." If you encounter this message, just click continue when asked. More information about certificate errors is posted on the NAVFAC web site <http://www.bit.ly/NAVFAC-WebCertificate>. (USN)

Supreme Court issues ruling in customary adoption case

On March 31, 2011, the Supreme Court issued its decision in *Estate of Remedio Malite*, affirming the Superior Court's ruling that Remedio Malite adopted Jesus Somol through the Carolinian adoption custom known as *mwei mwei*.

The case arose when Juan Somol—the son of Jesus Somol—claimed that his father had been adopted by Remedio and was therefore entitled to inherit from Remedio's estate. This estate was predominantly derived from the estate of Remedio's father, Angel Malite, and heirs to the Angel Malite Estate appealed to the Supreme Court after the trial court ruled that the customary adoption occurred.

The heirs argued on appeal

that the trial court did not consider the proper elements of a *mwei mwei* adoption, that there was insufficient evidence to justify the trial court's decision, and that the court improperly disregarded important documentary evidence.

Typically, a *mwei mwei* adoption occurs between relatives while the child is still young, both the natural and adopting parents consent to the adoption, and the community is made aware of it.

The Supreme Court held that the trial court had properly considered the *mwei mwei* adoption elements. Specifically, the high court cited the trial court's finding that Remedio took Jesus to Satawal—one of the "outer islands" of the State of Yap—at

a young age as strong evidence favoring the customary adoption finding. The court also cited that multiple trial witnesses testified that Jesus' natural mother had told them that she had given Jesus to Remedio to adopt. While the Supreme Court acknowledged that some testimony and documentary evidence weighed against a *mwei mwei* adoption finding, it stressed that it was the trial court's job to weigh competing evidence and that it would not reverse the lower court's decision because it was not left with a definite and firm conviction that the trial court made a mistake.

The case also involved a letter that the Superior Court received from Juan Somol in 2005. The letter contained an-

cestral information relating to the Malite family, as well as information that the heirs argued would have undermined Juan's credibility during the heirship hearings. The Supreme Court rejected the heirs' argument that the mere existence of this letter created an appearance of bias sufficient to justify reversing the trial court's decision. In rejecting the heirs' claim, the Supreme Court stressed that Judge Juan T. Lizama, the trial court judge, denied ever receiving the letter, and there was no evidence suggesting otherwise. The Supreme Court held that mere receipt of a letter by court staff other than a judge does not create an appearance of partiality sufficient to warrant vacating a court order.

The Supreme Court finally rejected arguments that Lizama demonstrated bias throughout the heirship proceedings and that his subsequent disqualification from the related *Angel Malite* case required the court to vacate his decision in the *Remedio Malite* case. While the Supreme Court acknowledged that the trial court had had many heated exchanges with counsel during the heir-

ship hearings, it found that these exchanges did not rise to the level of demonstrating bias. The court also ruled that the heirs never moved to disqualify Lizama from the *Remedio Malite* case, and so even though he was later disqualified in the *Angel Malite* case, the interests of justice did not demand vacating the *Remedio Malite* decision.

The Supreme Court's full opinion re: the *Estate of Remedio Malite*, and can be found at <http://www.justice.gov.mp/>. (PR)

Navy training on FDM, Warning Area-517

SANTA RITA, GUAM—The U.S. Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- April 2, from 8am-1pm
- April 4-5, from 9:30am-9:30pm
- April 6-7, from 8am-9 pm
- April 8, from 9am-1 pm
- April 9, from 8 am-1pm

The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) on April 5 from 8am to 5pm.

The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of

14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends southwest in international wa-

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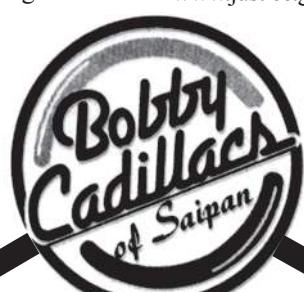
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BUDGET*From Page 1*

The rest is set aside for debt service and bond payments, among other things.

The figures also do not include projected revenues of the Department of Public Lands as this is constitutionally restricted and are not available for appropriations for general government operations.

Fitial's budget submission includes the merger of the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Corrections, and increased funding for the Marianas Visitors Authority to cushion the impact of the Japan disasters on the CNMI tourism industry.

The 16-hour work cuts per payroll remain, so are unpaid holidays.

Fitial, in an interview, said his budget submission is a "balanced" one.

The budget funds 1,779 fulltime employee positions, down by 332 positions from the 2,111 funded in 2011.

"The net estimate of \$102,000,000 will continue in fiscal year 2012 vigilant of the impact that the Japan disaster is anticipated to have on our ailing economy," Fitial said in his budget transmittal to House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota).

The administration expects zero to slow growth in tourist arrivals from its main tourism market of Japan, because of the effect of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami coupled with a nuclear power plants crisis.

DHS*From Page 1*

The rule would cover some 22,000 foreign workers in the CNMI, based on DHS' announcement in December 2010.

DHS is the lead agency implementing U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control on Nov. 28, 2009. The five-year transition period ends on Dec. 31, 2014.

The regulations will provide a system for alien workers employed in the CNMI, who are not eligible for any other federal employment-based visa, to keep working in the CNMI during the transition period.

But no regulations were published, and DHS issued no statement on when the work will be done.

An alien worker in temporary CNMI-only transitional worker (CW) classification is ineligible for another classification under the INA and who performs services or labor for an employer in the CNMI.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said yesterday that the continued lack of regulations is causing a lot of problems in the community.

For one, he said, many employers are holding off on hiring employees until they see the DHS regulations. As a result, many residents and nonresidents find it difficult to secure jobs.

"We were expecting DHS to issue the regulations in March because that's what secretary [Janet] Napolitano said. Now we all know there's no regulation issued in March. We really hope they will publish the regulations way before the expiration of umbrella permits in November," Syed told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said his ad-

Elimination of \$18M

Days prior to the April 1 deadline, the Fitial administration had said that the budget in 2012 would be \$120 million.

But when Fitial convened all the four mayors in his conference room yesterday morning, he announced that the budget will only be \$102 million, mainly because DPH is expected to become a corporation in three months.

"This budget submission assumes that DPH will be privatized and run on its own by July," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune* right after the governor's closed-door council meeting that lasted for some one-and-a-half hours.

Fitial said the estimated revenue of \$18 million from hospital charges will not be available for appropriation and is eliminated from the estimated available resources, bringing down the \$120 million projected revenue to \$102 million.

"So we're anticipating that they will collect \$18 million; that's identified under the \$120 million submission. So by removing \$18 million, the remainder is \$102 million available for appropriation to all the agencies, except DPH," the governor added.

With the exception of the Medicaid Office and related matching funds, a \$5 million appropriation is proposed from the general fund to provide startup capital for the HealthCare Corp.

Had DPH been budgeted, it would be given \$28 million under the original estimate of \$120 million, said press secretary Angel Demapan.

The total operating budget that all government branches, departments and activities asked for 2012 reached over

ministration has also been waiting for the regulations to come out.

Subcommittee chair John Fleming (R-LA) and ranking member Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D-MP) said in a statement yesterday that they will hold a hearing on the implementation of federal immigration law in the CNMI in light of the lack of regulations.

Fleming indicated that he would consult with House Natural Resources Committee chairman Doc Hastings on the timing of the hearing.

The exchange between Fleming and Sablan took place at the start of the subcommittee's hearing on the fiscal 2012 appropriations request for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

That also marked Sablan's first appearance as ranking member, the Democratic leader, of the subcommittee.

Sablan is the CNMI's first non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. This is only his second term.

He used yesterday's hearing to alert Fleming to the DHS failure to get regulations out within the expected time period. Sablan also asked the chairman to schedule a hearing on the regulations and other immigration transition matters as soon as possible.

Fleming said he and Sablan have talked before about the implementation of the law extending federal immigration to the CNMI.

"The Department of Homeland Security has been remiss in meeting its deadlines to publish many of the implementing regulations," Fleming said in a statement. "The lack of regulations has created uncertainty in the region and has had an adverse impact on job creation and the local economy."

Sablan also focused on the negative impact on businesses.

"I will tell you that without these regulations, businesses are hurting. They

\$203 million, and the budget team's daunting task was to trim it down to \$120 million and then to \$102 million.

"Although the \$101 million budget gap has been difficult to adjust, radical expenditure reduction was necessary to keep the government open," Fitial told lawmakers.

He commended special assistant for management and budget Vicky Villagomez and her staff for trimming the total budget requests.

Governor's council meeting

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Demapan, and Villagomez, along with the rest of the budget team, stayed up at the office until 4:30am on Friday to work on the budget.

Some five-and-a-half hours later or around 10am, the governor convened Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, and Northern Islands Mayor Tobias Aldan.

Fitial said all mayors agreed to the budget submission, although they would have wanted more than what's proposed for them.

"What can we do? They want more but we can only give what we have. We cannot be like people who only have \$100 in their bank account and yet they issue a \$200 check," Fitial said after the meeting.

Flores, Mendiola, Dela Cruz, and Tobias, in separate interviews, said they will do their best to live within their means.

The Rota and Tinian mayors also said the elimination of funding for

cannot sign contracts or plan for the future without knowing whether their workers will be available. We have to end this uncertainty," he said.

The transition period for the implementation of federal immigration began on Nov. 28, 2009, and DHS issued an interim rule on transitional workers one month earlier.

The CNMI government, however, took DHS to court to block the rule.

A federal court upheld parts of the CNMI complaint and sent the regulations back to DHS with instructions to follow proper administrative procedures and reissue the rule. That was on Nov. 25, 2009.

Sixteen months later, DHS has still not acted.

In December, Napolitano responded to a letter from then-House Natural Resources chair Nick Rahall (D-WV), Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chair Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Sen. Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), and Sablan, saying she "expects to publish the Transitional Worker Visa Classification Final Rule during the first quarter of calendar year 2011."

March 31 was the final day of the quarter and the transitional worker rule has not been published, leading to Sablan's call for "an oversight hearing on this and other issues regarding the transition to federal control of immigration in the Northern Mariana Islands as soon as possible."

Sablan said he remains extremely concerned about the problem that the continued delay in the publication of the CNMI-only worker rule creates for businesses, workers, and the economy of the Commonwealth.

"However, we know from the mandate contained in Public Law 110-229 that there will be a way for businesses to have access to foreign workers, if there are no local workers available."

Rota and Tinian Health Centers under the governor's budget will be a relief.

Austerity measures

The governor said the austerity measures embedded in the 2012 budget are almost the same as the ones in the 2011 budget.

"No surprises," he said in an interview.

In his budget transmittal, the governor enumerated nine proposed considerations and austerity measures:

1. Passage of House Bill 17-99 to adjust the proposed method of payment of employer contribution to the Defined Benefit Plan of the NMI Retirement Fund;

2. Continuation of 16-hour work cuts per pay period, equivalent to 20 percent of payroll;

3. Reduced "all other" funds for non-essential services by some 50 percent;

4. Continuation of 13 unpaid legal holidays;

5. Reduction of utilities budget to \$5 million as a result of the transfer of DPH's utility expenses to the Health-

Care Corporation;

6. Reduction of FTEs from 2,111 in FY 2011 to 1,779 in FY 2012 or a decrease of 332 positions;

7. Consolidation of the operations of the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Corrections into one department;

8. Increased funding for the Marianas Visitors Authority to address potential impact of the recent disasters in Japan; and

9. Implementation of the desk audit recommendations made by MAI Inc. on DPS and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

The governor again suspended the provisions of Public Laws 15-5 and 14-54, which set aside nonresident worker fees to the Northern Marianas College and the Public School System, and 10 percent of gaming jackpot tax to PSS.

Also suspended was 4 CMC 1508(a) and (b), which gives 10 percent of general fund poker fees to the Human Resources Development Fund or the Workforce Investment Agency, and 50 percent to the NMI Retirement Fund.

in line with the expected privatization of the Department of Public Health/Commonwealth Health Center.

Flores said the Saipan Mayor's Office was able to retain its 38 FTEs, including himself.

Unlike last year when Flores argued with the governor when the latter reduced to half the number of FTEs at the Saipan Mayor's Office, this year proved to be a very cordial meeting.

The governor's proposed budget for both Saipan and the Northern Islands is \$1,219,906.

Flores and Northern Islands Mayor Tobias Aldan requested more than the amount.

Aldan also said he's able to retain his 11 FTEs.

Dela Cruz said the Tinian Mayor's Office got a budget of \$4,361,962 from the governor, much less than his requested \$6.9 million.

But he said he will do his best to be able to trim down the expenses to the allotted amount.

Reyes left the hotel on Tuesday at 6am and promised to return to pick her up for school.

The girlfriend said that when she woke up later, she went downstairs and saw her car parked at the back with Vincent Reyes as the driver.

She told police that the TV set in their hotel room was still there when she left.

While the girlfriend and Derik Reyes were having lunch at his residence, Vincent Reyes reportedly borrowed her car and returned it at 3pm that day, Tuesday.

The girlfriend said Derik Reyes later instructed her to go back to the hotel to sign a document. When she arrived at the hotel she found out that they haven't paid for the room.

She called her grandfather to meet her at Hanamitsu to pay for their bill.

The hotel's housekeeping staff discovered while cleaning rooms 203 and 204 that two 32-inch Sony flat screen TV sets were missing, along with several white towels.

The two TV sets were valued at \$1,800.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos appointed assistant public defender Douglas Hartig to represent Derik Reyes and ordered a private counsel for Vincent Reyes.

Chief Prosecutor Michael Ernest appeared for the government.

CAMERA*From Page 1*

glary and theft. Bail was set at \$1,000 cash and \$9,000 unsecured bond for each suspect.

Preliminary hearing will be on April 7 at 9am.

Detective Buddy Igital stated in his report that a Hanamitsu Hotel and Spa representative had informed police Tuesday night about the theft incident at the hotel.

Igital said investigation showed that Derik Reyes made reservations on Monday night and later checked in with his girlfriend at room 204.

The surveillance camera captured Derik and Vincent Reyes rushing out the backdoor of the hotel on Tuesday at 4:35pm.

The Reyes brothers were seen carrying out an object covered with white towels and they fled on a Nissan Altima with license plate ACH-864.

Hotel personnel described the covered object as resembling a large flat screen TV set.

Derik Reyes' girlfriend later told Igital in an interview Thursday night that she and her boyfriend had checked in for one night at Hanamitsu Hotel as Derik Reyes' gift to her.

The girlfriend stated that Derik

MVA board OKs \$49K for Russian market programs

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To boost promotional campaigns and advertising efforts in the emerging Russian market,

the Marianas Visitors Authority board approved Thursday the use of \$49,000 for specific programs.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, which recommend-

ed the action, said the board had earlier approved \$120,000 funding for the Russian market account, of which only \$118,000 has been expended so far.

In Thursday's board meet-

ing, Tenorio disclosed that the amount would be used for "promotion opportunities" through media tours and magazines, among others.

Last fiscal year, the CNMI recorded a total of 4,300 total visitors from Russia. Since the beginning of the fiscal year in October 2010, total Russian arrivals is at 1,850 as of January 2011.

Despite the low arrival numbers compared to other tourism markets such as Korea, Tenorio pointed out that each Russian visitor is equivalent to three

tourists from other markets in terms of economic activity and impact to the industry.

Because of several factors that are out of MVA's control, Tenorio said they may see a reduction in the already "small" number of arrivals from Russia. He said that boosting promotions for the destination will help entice Russians to return to the islands.

For many years, Russia has been considered an emerging market for NMI tourism as it consistently showed growth in arrivals. Tenorio said that from

year-to-date, Russian market already showed 20 percent growth at this time.

Besides the funding for Russian market programs, the board also approved yesterday the production of the agency's annual report for fiscal year 2010 which may cost up to \$6,500 for the proposed 75 copies of the report.

The board members, in consideration of the financial state of the agency, have asked the management to try to adjust the proposed amount to minimize the agency's expenditures.

Country House and Moby Dick donate \$2K to NMC Foundation

Country House Restaurant and Moby Dick Restaurant recently donated \$2,000 to the Northern Marianas College Foundation in support of the 9th Annual Foundation Open golf tournament.

The tournament is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2011, at Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. The tournament is NMC Foundation's signature event, which aims to raise funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

"Country House and Moby Dick support the foundation's efforts in providing expanded educational opportunities to students of the CNMI," said Country House's general manager Katsuko Kato. "We

are proud to contribute to the Foundation's goal in raising funds for higher education."

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization composed of community volunteers committed to elevating higher education opportunities for CNMI students.

"The NMC Foundation is most grateful to Country House and Moby Dick for the donation. The funds will help ensure the continuation of important programs at NMC," said Ben Babauta, president of NMC Foundation.

The 9th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament will be held at the Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, or Triple J Motors. (NMC)

with show time at 6am and a shotgun start at 7am and will follow a medal play format.

In addition to first, second and third place prizes for the flights, the event will include hole-in-one prizes. There will be six separate flight categories: Championship, A, B, C, seniors, and ladies. The entrance fee is \$95 per player.

For information on how to donate to the NMC Foundation or to register to play log on to www.nmcnet.edu or call 234-5498 extension 1050. Registration forms are available online or by visiting the NMC Cashier's Office, Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, or Triple J Motors. (NMC)



Country House's general manager Katsuko Kato, right, and administrative manager Kayoko Iriyaka, left, present NMC Foundation president Ben Babauta with a check for \$2,000. The proceeds support the foundation's efforts to raise funds for NMC's educational programs and student services.

Reports: 4 found guilty in Tonga ferry disaster

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Four men were found guilty of manslaughter Friday in connection to the 2009 sinking of a packed passenger ferry in Tonga that was one of the South Pacific nation's worst disasters, media reports said.

The captain and first mate of the Princess Ashika, the former chief of the company that operated the ship, and the department head that signed a seaworthiness order for the vessel were found guilty of manslaughter by negligence by a Supreme Court jury, the Matangi Tonga news website reported.

They face a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

Justice Robert Schuster ordered the men to be held in police custody until a sentencing hearing on Monday.

The Aug. 5, 2009 sinking of the Princess Ashika with 74 passengers aboard shocked Tonga, a genteel South Pacific nation of more than 175 islands that relies heavily on ferries to transport people and goods between atolls.

The ship went down in stormy seas late as night, as most of the passengers slept below decks. Only two bodies were recovered.

An extensive inquiry con-

cluded the ship was unseaworthy and should not have been in service, triggering a scandal in the country over who authorized the purchase of the vessel.

Those found guilty were John Jones, a New Zealander who is the former managing director of the Shipping Corp. of Polynesia that operated the ferry, its captain Makahokovalu Tuputupu and first mate Semisi Pomale, and the acting director of the government Marine and Ports Department Viliami Tu'ipulotu.

They were charged with the manslaughter of Vae Fetu'u Taufa, a 21-year-old mother

whose body was one of the two recovered after the disaster, in deep waters off the main island of Tongatapu.

The shipping company also faced a range of charges relating to responsibility for the seaworthiness of the ferry, and was found guilty by the same jury.

Prosecution witnesses gave evidence at the trial that the ferry showed signs of structural deficiencies, Matangi Tonga reported.

Defense lawyers argued that the men should be found innocent because the ship had a valid certificate of seaworthiness.

Present at the check presentation are CTSI chief executive officer Jerry Tan, American Red Cross—NMI Chapter member Viola Sablan, CTSI Logistics station manager Joven Cruz, Finance manager Cora Samson, Japan Consul Tsutomu Higuchi, Logistics coordinator Rosie Santos, and American Red Cross—NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsch.

CTSI Logistics donates to Japan disaster relief

Various stations of CTSI Logistics donated \$4,002 to the American Red Cross—NMI Chapter for disaster relief in quake- and tsunami-stricken Japan on Wednesday, March 30, 2011.

Funds were raised directly by contributions of employees in the Philippines, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Taiwan, Saipan, and the United States.

Japan Consul to the Northern Mariana Islands Tsutomu Higuchi said, "Each day there is a new discovery and exponential increase of missing

people. Our Japan government is working as hard as they can, but it is resources that are running out for our people. The money collected by CTSI em-

ployees will certainly help in the purchase of water, food, fuel and comfort to those hundreds of thousands of people in need. Thank you." (PR)

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PUBLIC NOTICE
April 2, 2011

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2011 AT 9:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - 1. Roll Call
 - 2. Adoption of Agenda
 - 3. Adoption of Minutes
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
 - 1. Executive Director's Report
 - 2. Comptroller's Report
 - 3. Legal Counsel's Report
- IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
 - 1. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget
 - a. Fiscal Year 2012 Budget
 - 2. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
 - a. Update on Foreclosed Properties
 - b. Update on Borrowers' Status
 - c. Auctions
 - 3. DBD/Public Finance Committee
 - 4. OC Program/Economic Development Activities
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - 1. Update – Office Relocation Options
 - 2. Delta Promotions
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - 1. New Loan Request
- VII. OTHER MATTERS
 - 1. Brownfields' 2011 Conference
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ **PEDRO I. ITIBUS**
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors



Opinion

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All bears in zoos are Knut

By JENNIFER O'CONNOR
PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

Just four short years ago, a white ball of fluff captured the attention of the world. Now hearts are broken with the news that Knut, the polar bear at the Berlin Zoo, had a convulsion, collapsed and died as hundreds of visitors watched. Even in death Knut was on display.

He was marketed as the poster child for "cute," but Knut was a deeply troubled bear. He spent his days pacing incessantly, bobbing his head repeatedly and exhibiting so much captivity-induced mental distress that one German zoologist called him a "psychopath." Chased, bitten and harassed by his three cellmates and besieged by onlookers, Knut never knew a moment's peace or privacy. Polar bears are naturally solitary animals who shun human contact and don't seek out the company of other bears.

Like all baby animals bred in zoos to bring in paying customers, the adorable cub quickly grew to adulthood. As his marketing and merchandising appeal waned, the Berlin Zoo attempted to unload the less cute adult Knut to another zoo. But Berliners wanted to keep their star. The crowds will move on, but it's too late for Knut.

Polar bears thrive in enormous Arctic expanses and open water—which no zoo can provide. An Oxford University study found that polar bears suffer physical and mental anguish in captivity and noted that a typical polar bear enclosure is about one-millionth the size of the animal's minimum home range. Captive polar bears all over North America have died young of causes such as eating debris thrown into the cage, fights with cagemates and reactions to anesthesia.

Bears of all species fare very poorly in zoos. In some bear exhibits, the animals' constant pacing wears a visible path into the ground, and sometimes one can see the actual paw impressions in the soil where the bears step in the same spot over and over again. These animals aren't just bored; they are in a state of profound despondency.

Try to imagine living in the same cramped place for the rest of your life. Animals who are genetically designed to roam, swim or fly freely are no more able to adjust to lifelong captivity than we are. That's why prison is considered society's harshest punishment.

We are appalled when we learn that Montezuma put albinos and hunchbacks on display for people's amusement. Yet how is locking animals in cages and letting streams of people gawk, point and laugh at them any different? Just like us, animals want and deserve to live their lives as nature intended.

The next time you consider taking your kids or grandchildren to the zoo, please ask yourself this: Would you wish that kind of bleak existence on your loved ones? Is having a way to occupy the kids for a few hours reason enough to support the lifelong captivity of intelligent and social animals? Do you really want to teach your child that this is the right way to treat the animals they care about?

Keeping animals in cages from birth to death, forcing them into breeding regimens to churn out ticket-selling babies and sentencing animals to a lifetime of deprivation must come to an end. If your family cares about animals, don't support their cruel confinement. Before you buy a zoo ticket, please remember that animals' quality of life matters just as much to them as yours does to you.

Jennifer O'Connor is a staff writer with the PETA Foundation.



A swipe at consumers: Congress and bank card fee caps

Don't look now, but the rewards program for your debit card may soon disappear.

Thanks to a new regulation out of Washington, banks across the country are limiting or ending the benefits they offer to cardholders. In the past week alone, JP Morgan Chase, SunTrust and Wells Fargo have announced that they will no longer be offering rewards to some or all customers. More are expected to follow suit.

The cause of this turmoil is a little-known provision tucked into last year's Dodd-Frank financial regulation bill. Sponsored by Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., the provision requires the Federal Reserve to limit the fees banks can charge retailers for processing debit-card transactions. These fees—known as "interchange" or "swipe" fees—vary widely, but average about 44 cents per transaction, or 1.14 percent of total purchases. Overall, the fees generate about \$14 billion for the banks that issue debit cards.

Over the past several years, as debit cards have become more popular with consumers, retailers have loudly complained about the cost of these fees. Durbin's amendment was an attempt to address these complaints. Specifically, the Federal Reserve is charged with setting limits on these fees to ensure they are "reasonable" and proportionate to cost. After a hasty review of the marketplace, the Fed proposed capping interchange fees at a flat 12 cents per transaction, barely one-fourth the current rate.

Initially, this cap on interchange fees may have been seen as an easy way to score political points. In the wake of the 2008 bailouts, big banks have been political lepers, so why not transfer a few bucks from them to help out local retailers? But now it looks like consumers will be among the biggest losers.

And it's not just card rewards programs that are at risk. Debit cards may be harder to get at all—depriving consumers of one of one of the most beneficial personal finance innovations in recent years. The fee cap—along with other new banking regulation—is also causing banks to increase fees on a wide range of other services, from ATMs to checking accounts to make up their lost revenue.

The net effect will not only be to make banking more expensive, but cause many lower-income Americans to drop their bank accounts entirely. Jamie Dimon, CEO of JPMorgan Chase, projects that as many as 5 percent of consumers to discontinue their accounts, becoming "unbanked." No wonder organizations

By JAMES GATTUSO
The Heritage Foundation

James Gattuso is the senior research fellow in regulatory policy at The Heritage Foundation.



such as the NAACP have joined industry groups in sounding the alarm on the new rules.

Nor are small banks and their customers spared the pain—despite having an exemption on paper. With large banks forced to charge less, the smaller banks will soon be forced to lower their fees too to meet the "market" rate.

On the other side of the ledger, it's not clear how much retail consumers will save—if anything. Merchants won't be required to pass on their windfall to customers (nor should they be, unless we want price controls at the retail level as well).

At least some retailers are already counting on substantial gains. Home Depot, for instance, is predicting an additional \$35 million in profits from the Durbin Amendment. But regardless of how the spoils are distributed, consumers will suffer, as the caps interfere with market pricing, increasing inefficiency across the board.

As this consumer train wreck approaches, legislation has been introduced in both houses to stop it. In the Senate, Democrat John Tester of Montana, along with eight other members of both parties, introduced a bill on March 14 calling for a two-year delay of the rules while their impact is reassessed. The next day, Rep. Shelley Capito, a Democrat from West Virginia, introduced a bill calling for a one-year delay.

Congress, however, should go further. Rather than just delay price controls, they should be eliminated entirely.

The problems caused by this ill-considered amendment to last year's financial regulation bill present a case study in how interference in the marketplace ends up hurting not just businesses but consumers. Unfortunately, it is only one among countless questionable provisions in the 1,600-page Dodd-Frank Act. Policymakers may be busy for years to come cleaning up the mess.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

We will remember 2011

Stop for a moment. Look around you and make a note of this time and place, because years from now you will want to remember where you were when 2011 happened.

Moving along the path of human events, we have reached a fork in the road, a turning point in history. We don't know what lies ahead.

As this is written, the United States has—most reluctantly—entered another war in the Middle East, ostensibly to prevent a dictator, Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, from slaughtering his people. But, it's not just Libya. The entire Middle East is boiling.

Meanwhile, Japan, the world's third-largest economy, has taken a punch in the gut with a natural disaster of inconceivable proportions and a nuclear crisis whose ultimate outcome remains unclear. If we had heard a month ago a story of fires in multiple nuclear reactors, mass evacuations, water too radioactive to drink in one of the world's largest cities, radioactive vegetables and people killed by the tens of thousands in a massive earthquake and a giant tsunami, we would have thought it was a really bad movie. But this is reality.

The nuclear disaster in Japan only makes what happens in the Middle East more critical, because it highlights how unprepared the world is to withstand shocks to the oil supply.

If any part of the world underwent the kind of transformative and unpredictable upheaval we see now in the Middle East, it would count as a major development. But when the turmoil happens in that politically radioactive region, all our lives could feel the effects. The

Middle East is the source of two exceedingly powerful exports. One is oil, whose every change in supply sends jolts through the global economy. The other is ideology.

Many believe the Middle East rose to prominence only because of its oil riches. But the region triggered major global ideas and events long before oil was found. It brought the world monotheism, Christianity, Islam. It was at the center of the Crusades, the Ottoman Empire, Arab-Israeli wars and the rise of militant Islam. The Middle East has shown its ability to change the world.

We don't know where all this will take us. Years from now we may look back and say 2011 was the year when democracy took hold in the Middle East; the year when the region stopped exporting extremism and became an example of peace, democracy, and reconciliation. We might mark it as the year when successful Arab uprisings sent a wave of democratic change to other parts of the world, helping bring freedom to Burma and China and Cuba. We may well see the revolutions reach other corners of the world. Facebook does.

But a happy outcome is far from assured.

UK Foreign Secretary William Hague warned that if things go wrong in the Middle East, the world "would have financial consequences that would make the last three years seem the mere prelude to much greater difficulties."

On the shores of the Persian Gulf, in Bahrain, Saudi troops have marched in against an uprising by the majority Shiites against the ruling Sunni monarchy. Iran watches closely. It has claimed Bah-

By FRIDA GHITIS
McClatchy Newspapers

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rain is its territory. Tehran has hinted it could intervene to help fellow Shiites. A clash between Iran and Saudi Arabia would send the world economy into a tailspin. It could also become a much wider Sunni-Shia confrontation. In nearby Yemen, at the entrance to the Persian Gulf, the U.S.-friendly president looks set to lose power. Yemen is a hotbed of radical Islamist fervor. It is the most likely country to become another Afghanistan, but its location makes it more dangerous than 1990s Afghanistan, where the Taliban allowed al Qaeda to hatch the 9/11 attacks.

At this extraordinarily important moment in history, another enormous change is taking place. The United States appears set to relinquish its role of global leadership. The post-American world, as Fareed Zakaria termed it, may just begin in 2011. President Obama agreed to take action in Libya only after France and Britain prodded him. And even now the mission, and American enthusiasm, remains hazy.

In the end, it could turn out the way we wish, with freedom and democracy for all. We don't know. But whatever happens, you will remember 2011.

Obama flirts with a doctrine

Is an Obama Doctrine in foreign policy developing before our eyes?

The president and his aides wave off the idea, at least if it means seeing the U.S.-led military intervention in Libya as a one-size-fits-all model.

"It's important not to take this particular situation and then try to project some sort of Obama Doctrine that we're going to apply in a cookie-cutter fashion across the board," the president said in a television interview Tuesday. "Each country in this region is different."

But then Obama went ahead and sketched the outlines of something that looks, well, like a doctrine in the making. "We want to make sure that governments are not attacking their own citizens," he said. "We want governments that are responsive to their people. And so we'll use all our tools to try to accomplish that."

Obama has insisted that Libya is "a unique situation," a combination of circumstances that's unlikely to recur: a tyrant threatening to massacre his opponents and a strong international consensus to stop him, in a country that's a relatively easy, uncomplicated target. So the use of military force against dictators isn't a doctrine, since it can't be generally applied. Instead, the doctrine lies in the larger commitment Obama has come to after three months of uprisings in the Arab world: that the United States will be on the side of the democrats, and will use "all our tools"—within limits—to try to help them win.

What that means in practice still hasn't been filled out. This week, Obama talked almost solely about Libya, a conflict his administration jumped into without explaining fully to the public. In the weeks to

come, he's expected to talk more often and more broadly about the future of the whole Middle East—including his hopes that the democratic wave convulsing the Arab world can overflow into neighboring Iran.

This is a significant shift after two years in which Obama offered only modest support for democratic reform movements—and three months in which he initially hesitated to support demonstrators in the streets. (His administration's initial impulse, after all, was to defend Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as a reliable ally.)

But the broader issue of when the United States should intervene in other countries is something Obama has been thinking about for a long time. In his 2006 book, "The Audacity of Hope," he posed an earlier version of the questions Americans have been asking this week.

"The United States still lacks a coherent national security policy," he complained. "Instead of guiding principles, we have what appears to be a series of ad hoc decisions, with dubious results. Why invade Iraq and not North Korea or Burma? Why intervene in Bosnia and not Darfur?"

One conclusion he came to then echoes in his recent actions: "It will almost always be in our strategic interest to act multilaterally rather than unilaterally when we use force around the world."

In those days, and even this week, Obama defined his position by contrasting it with that of his predecessor, George W. Bush, who took the United States to war in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Obama supported one of those wars but not the other. But on one issue, at least, the two presidents appear to have converged.

In a 2005 pledge that some called the Bush Doctrine, our last presi-

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

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dent also declared the United States to be on the side of democracy activists everywhere. Obama has already used more military force in a country of secondary strategic interest than Bush ever did.

Right now, Obama and his staff are too focused on winning the war in Libya to spend much time elaborating on the fine points of a grand doctrine. They know that if Moammar Gadhafi is toppled in a matter of weeks, they'll look brilliant; if Gadhafi hangs on, they'll look like blunderers.

But the president and his aides also see the revolution in the Arab world as the most important event of Obama's time in office—as important, perhaps, as the end of the Cold War in 1989.

They are already working on a larger policy to help it come out right, including a big international aid program—one they hope will be funded partly by Arab oil states—to help Egypt, Tunisia and other new democracies succeed.

They won't call it a "doctrine," but it will almost certainly look like one. From here on out, they say, this will be the centerpiece; this will be what Obama's foreign policy is about.

When the fallout starts, do you trust your doctor or your worst nightmares?

Itend to use disaster preparation the way some people use Valium. I find having the right things on hand calms the nerves. I try to be ultra-rational about what might be needed. Unfortunately, I live in Los Angeles, so there's a lot to think about. And since Japan's triple disaster, there's even more to imagine and prevent.

Before last week, my doctor had never been forced to play a role in my apocalyptic preparations. But when I learned that a plume of radioactivity from the destroyed Japanese nuclear reactors would soon reach Southern California, I started torturing him, via email. And I know how to pester. I wanted prescriptions for potassium iodide for all members of my household, not so much because of the approaching plume but because I realized that if the San Onofre or El Diablo nuclear plants suffered a similar event—that is, a big earthquake, not unknown in Southern California—we might need it. Also, I have to admit, I do believe that if one is prepared for the worst, possibly the worst will not happen: Like carrying an umbrella in case it rains.

My doctor and I, however, do not see eye to eye on this philosophy (most doctors don't), nor on the more pressing issue of potassium iodide. "I don't think that's a good idea, Amy," he wrote to me, in an email. "Jonathan Fielding, the Director of the Public Health Department, has specifically recommended against this, as there's no evidence of need and currently, no likely need for iodide." He sent me the URL for Fielding's directive.

In it, Fielding said the Los Angeles County Public Health Department, along with other local, state and federal agencies, would

inform us when we needed iodide, and it was not now.

Uh-huh.

However, we should be prepared for emergencies, with water, food, cash, toiletries, tools and prescription medications on hand. Basically, everything but potassium iodide, apparently.

My doctor was also worried that I would take the potassium iodide prematurely—that's how much of a nutbag he thinks I am.

I reassured him on this point. I also told him that I was skeptical about Fielding's directive. "Don't forget," I wrote, "in 2001, building officials told people not to panic and that they should remain in the second tower."

The poor man wrote back: "Your point is a good one."

I was wearing him down. Probably he had other, more immediate things to deal with on this day, as doctors tend to do.

"So let's keep an eye on developments," he continued, "and if there are other questions or if the situation changes, we can address this again." He added that he would get me my potassium iodide as soon as he got it for his own family.

Not so fast, doctor! This battle's not over.

Sure, I wrote back, "but will you panic SOON enough? Doctors have a notorious cool in the face of emergency." Under the subject heading "oh just prescribe it!" I sent him warnings about the plume from the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization in Vienna, which offered no information about actual radiation levels but did show the probable movements and dispersal

By AMY WILENTZ
Los Angeles Times

Amy Wilentz is the author of *I Feel Earthquakes More Often Than They Happen: Coming to California in the Age of Schwarzenegger*. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



of the radioactive cloud.

By now, he was broken.

"Oh OK," was the dejected subject heading of his reply email. His tone was exhausted but tolerant, the tone you take with a child in a tantrum or a severely mentally ill patient. "I think at this point," he wrote, "it would be better for you to have it and not have to worry about that aspect of this situation."

As my son used to say when he was a toddler: "I winned."

I went over to my pharmacy, where I had already joined the list the day before of people waiting for KI. I picked up my prescription, \$93 total, not covered. And now, in my medicine cabinet, lined up side by side, are three little orange soldiers of the apocalypse waiting for doom—and I hope, like all objects of magical thinking, somehow forestalling it.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 84° ▼ 74°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Palau	Rain	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Yap	Rain	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Majuro	Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 60
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 38
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 65
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 71
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 48
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 52
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 50
Miami	Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 66
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 53 ▼ 36
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 39
Paris	Rain	▲ 57 ▼ 44
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 45
Rome	Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 52
Salem	Showers	▲ 50 ▼ 40
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 48
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 56 ▼ 37
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 42
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 56 ▼ 40

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:05 AM	Today	Low Tide: 0.5 Feet
7:02 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
1:31 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.4 Feet
7:25 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:12 AM	6:29 PM	Today	4:59 AM	5:25 PM
Sunday	6:12 AM	6:30 PM	Sunday	5:35 AM	6:11 PM
Monday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM	Monday	6:11 AM	6:59 PM
Tuesday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM	Tuesday	6:49 AM	7:48 PM
Wednesday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM	Wednesday	7:30 AM	8:38 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:59 AM	5:25 PM	Today	4:59 AM	5:25 PM
Sunday	5:35 AM	6:11 PM	Sunday	5:35 AM	6:11 PM
Monday	6:11 AM	6:59 PM	Monday	6:11 AM	6:59 PM
Tuesday	6:49 AM	7:48 PM	Tuesday	6:49 AM	7:48 PM
Wednesday	7:30 AM	8:38 PM	Wednesday	7:30 AM	8:38 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily				C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
C09313 7:55am 8:45am 3, 6				C09596 6:35am 7:25am 3, 6			
C09313 8:30am 9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7				C09596 7:00am 7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7			
C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7				C09600 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7			
C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7				C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
C09605 6:20pm 7:10pm Daily				C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily			
C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily				C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287 6:10am 8:45am Daily				DL298 10:25am 3:05pm Daily			
DL285 6:40am 9:15am 1, 3, 4, 5, 6				DL286 7:45pm 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7			
DL297 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily				DL288 8:00pm 12:30am+1 Daily			
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZT19 4:00am 6:40am Daily				OZ120 9:50am 2:20am+1 Daily</			

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8:11:30am / 3:50pm, Wednesday and Friday 3:5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish

Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8:10am,
Saturday: 4:6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish

Monday-Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish

Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Monday-Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday-Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2:5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday-Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2:5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English

PROTESTANT

Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish

Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday-Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday: 8:30am-12pm

Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church

Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)

Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church

(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School

Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan

Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services:

Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am,

English 6pm

Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday

8pm

Telephone no. 235-8540

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan

English Worship Service: 9:10-30am

Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm

Children Sunday School: 9:10-30am

Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm

English Sunday School: 11am-12pm

Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting:

English, 7pm-8pm

Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry

Every Sunday Celebrations:

10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)

Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm

Youth Impact Friday: 7pm

Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am

Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,

Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Sunday Worship Service: 9:11am

Sunday school/ Children's church 9am

(nursery available during Sunday service)

GBI Classes: 4-6pm

Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA

Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday

San Antonio

Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)

Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)

Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm

(Tagalog)

Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)

Northern Marianas Christian Church

Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu

Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)

Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1

for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center

Sunday School: 9:30am

Divine Worship: 9:30-11am

Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)

Sunday worship 8:30am

Sunday evening 7:00pm

Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm

San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel

Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church

Sunday: 7:30am-10am

Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm

VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Formerly God's Victorious Army)

Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service

Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship

Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup

Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service

Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting

Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice

Last Friday of the month - Overnight

praying meeting

Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Monday: 8 pm-10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ

Sunday Bible Class: 9am

Sunday Worship: 10am

Sunday Worship English: 10-11am

Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm

Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church

(Sunday Services)

Palau Service: 7:30am-9am

English Service: 10am-11:30am

Chukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm

Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan

(Saturday Church Services)

Sabbath School Program: 9-10am

Lesson Study: 10:10-40am

Divine Service: 11-12pm

Visitation: 3-4pm

Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm

Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville

Sunday services:

Sunday school 9:00am

Morning worship 10:00am

Evening service 6:00pm

Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services

Sunday morning 10:00am

Sunday evening 7:00pm

Nation

Highway deaths fall to lowest level since 1949

WASHINGTON (AP)—Highway deaths have plummeted to their lowest levels in more than 60 years, helped by more people wearing seat belts, better safety equipment in cars and efforts to curb drunken driving.

The Transportation Department estimated Friday that 32,788 people were killed on U.S. roads in 2010, a decrease of about 3 percent from 2009. It's the fewest number of deaths since 1949—during the presidency of Harry Truman—when more than 30,000 people were killed.

The Pacific Northwest region, which includes Washington state, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska, saw fatalities fall 12 percent. Western states includ-

ing Arizona, California and Hawaii also posted large declines.

Government officials said the number of deaths was still significant but credited efforts on multiple fronts to make roadways safer.

"Too many of our friends and neighbors are killed in preventable roadway tragedies every day," said Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "We will continue doing everything possible to make cars safer, increase seat belt use, put a stop to drunk driving and distracted driving and encourage drivers to put safety first."

The numbers are projections for 2010. The government expects to release final data on deaths and injuries, including

specific state-by-state totals, later this year.

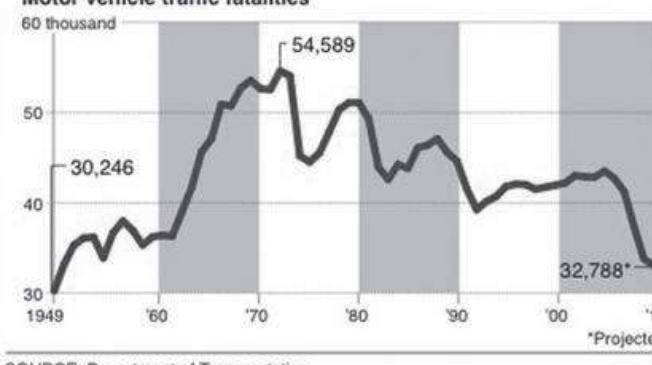
Traffic deaths typically decline during an economic downturn because many motorists cut back on discretionary travel. The number of deaths fell in the early 1980s and early 1990s, when the U.S. economy was struggling.

But people spent more time in their cars last year, making the estimates more noteworthy. The number of miles traveled by American drivers in 2010 grew by 20.5 billion, or 0.7 percent, compared with 2009, according to the Federal Highway Administration. The number of miles traveled increased slightly in 2009 after declines in the previous two years.

Traffic fatalities decline

A statistical projection by the Department of Transportation shows that U.S. traffic fatalities is at its lowest level since 1949.

Motor vehicle traffic fatalities



SOURCE: Department of Transportation

Chart shows the number of traffic fatalities in the U.S. since 1949 with 2010 projection.

Separately, the rate of deaths per 100 million miles traveled

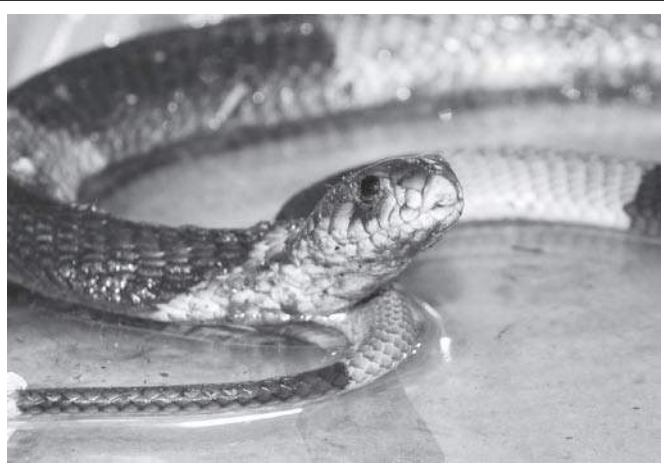
is estimated to have hit a record low of 1.09 in 2010, the lowest

since 1949. The previous record was in 2009, which had a rate of 1.13 deaths per 100 million miles traveled.

"It's a really good sign that fatalities are down despite the fact that (vehicle miles traveled) is up," said Barbara Harsha, executive director of the Governors Highway Safety Association.

Harsha said fewer people were dying because of a number of factors related to vehicle technologies, safer driving and road designs.

Safety equipment such as side air bags that guard the head and midsection in a crash and anti-rollover technology like electronic stability control are becoming standard equipment on new cars and trucks.



In this photo released by the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Bronx Zoo's once missing Egyptian Cobra is seen at the Bronx Zoo's Reptile House, Thursday, March 31, 2011, in New York.

Bronx Zoo cobra found in its reptile house

NEW YORK (AP)—A highly venomous Egyptian cobra that went missing at the Bronx Zoo was found Thursday after nearly a week on the lam in the reptile house, zoo officials said.

The approximately 24-inch snake was found coiled in a dark corner of the reptile house, about 200 feet from where it had escaped from a holding cage outside the exhibit into a space described by officials as a labyrinth of pipes and equipment.

"As you can imagine, we are delighted to report that the snake has been found alive and well," the zoo's director, Jim Breheny, said during a news conference as he stood in front of a huge picture of the snake projected on a screen.

The reptile house, a foreboding building with vines crawling up its sides and stone heads of alligators and frogs jutting from the sides of its roof, had closed last Friday after the snake disappeared and zoo workers couldn't find it.

The snake quickly became the stuff of urban legend. Someone even started pretending to be the cobra on Twitter and sent fake updates to legions of followers about

Farrakhan: Libya has lent Nation of Islam millions

CHICAGO (AP)—Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan reiterated his defense of Moammar Gadhafi on Thursday, calling the embattled Libyan leader a friend and Muslim brother who's lent the movement \$8 million over the years.

Farrakhan, speaking at a rare news conference, railed against the media and said Gadhafi isn't the monster being portrayed by Western governments.

The 78-year-old minister criticized the U.S. government and President Barack Obama—whom he also called a brother—for launching military action against Libya without justification. He accused Americans of

just wanting Gadhafi out of the picture to secure oil interests.

"I love Moammar Gadhafi, and I love our president," Farrakhan told several hundred cheering supporters at the Nation of Islam's headquarters. "It grieves me to see my brother president set a policy that would remove this man not only from power, but from the earth."

Obama has defended America's military involvement in Libya, saying the U.S. has intervened to prevent a slaughter of civilians. He has ruled out targeting Gadhafi militarily, and the U.S. turned over control of the military operation to NATO on Thursday. Gadhafi, who has

ruled Libya for decades, has been battling opposition forces.

Farrakhan portrayed Gadhafi as a fellow revolutionary and longtime friend to the Nation of Islam, which used \$3 million it borrowed from Libya in the 1970s to acquire its opulent headquarters on Chicago's South Side. Years later, a \$5 million loan was used to pay back taxes and costs for the home of the movement's former leader Elijah Muhammad.

Farrakhan has publicly defended Gadhafi at several recent events, including the Nation of



Farrakhan

Islam's annual Saviours' Day convention in February and at a civil rights convention last week. He said the U.S. government shouldn't be attacking Libya when it has stayed out of other conflicts around the world.

He called for a cease-fire on both sides in Libya and a chance for the Libyan people to vote on whether Gadhafi should stay in power. He dismissed allegations that Gadhafi has violently cracked down on his own people, saying the Libyan leader was "killing traitors."

ACROSS THE NATION

11 sailors injured during training off Calif.

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Military officials on Thursday said they were trying to determine what caused the engine of a fighter jet to fail and catch fire as it prepared to take off from an aircraft carrier in the Pacific Ocean. The mishap left eight sailors, one Marine and two civilians injured aboard the USS John C. Stennis, Naval Air Forces Lt. Aaron V. Kakiel said. The Navy initially reported 10 sailors were injured. None of the injuries sustained during the training exercise Wednesday off the California coast was life-threatening.

NY boy, 12, charged with hate crime on Muslim

NEW YORK (AP)—A 12-year-old boy accused of trying to rip the head scarf off a Muslim classmate during recess has been charged in New York City with a hate crime. The boy appeared Thursday in family court with his father and his lawyer. He's a 6th-grader at a Staten Island middle school and is being charged as a juvenile. The boy's father says his son is also a Muslim. Police and school officials say the boy has a history of harassing the 13-year-old girl, taunting her and threatening her on at least four separate occasions. The police report says he asked, "Are you Muslim?" while trying to remove her scarf. The girl suffered minor injuries. If convicted, he faces 18 months in juvenile detention.

Upstate NY man convicted in shooting that killed 4

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—A Buffalo man has been convicted on charges he opened fire outside a downtown restaurant over the summer, killing four and wounding four others. Riccardo McCray was found guilty Thursday of first-degree murder, attempted murder and weapons possession. Family members of victims cried when the verdict was read. Many had been in the courtroom through seven days of testimony that included video surveillance and graphic autopsy photos. McCray, who's 24, didn't testify. In an interview at the television station where he turned himself in 11 days after the shooting, he said he was at the restaurant when shots erupted but wasn't the shooter.

7 injured in tent collapse from storms in Florida

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Windy, rainy weather furiously swept through central Florida on Thursday, knocking out power to tens of thousands of people, flooding roads and toppling trucks and small planes. In Lakeland, where several hundred people had gathered for the annual Sun 'n Fun aviation festival, a tent collapsed and injured seven people, authorities said. Authorities said all of the injuries were minor and six were taken to a hospital. "The worst injury was a fractured hip," said Polk County Sheriff's spokesman Scott Wilder. About 70 people were under the tent when it collapsed and some crawled out, he said.

Loophole means Utah sex offender may go free

PROVO, Utah (AP)—Prosecutors in Utah are fighting to have a convicted sex offender facing multiple child sex abuse charges committed indefinitely after doctors deemed him no danger to society but mentally incompetent for trial, meaning he could soon see the case against him dropped and be set free. They won at least a temporary reprieve late Wednesday when a judge ordered a civil commitment hearing for Friday for Lonnie Hyrum Johnson, 38. Johnson faces nearly two dozen charges of child sex abuse. He has been held at Utah State Hospital in Provo, about 45 miles north of Salt Lake City, since 2008 after being deemed incompetent to stand trial.

Former zoo, circus elephant Ruby dies at sanctuary

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ruby, an African elephant who was moved to a Northern California sanctuary four years ago amid protests over her confinement at the Los Angeles Zoo, has died. She was 50. Ruby died Tuesday at the Performing Animal Welfare Society elephant sanctuary in San Andreas, director Pat Derby said Thursday. A veterinarian, the elephant staff and Derby were all with Ruby when she died. A necropsy was being performed at the University of California, Davis, Derby said. Ruby spent 20 years at the Los Angeles Zoo, after being transferred several times and performing with Circus Vargas, Derby said. Los Angeles Zoo officials said Ruby was one of the oldest African elephants in captivity.

Asia

Japan nuke plant leaking radiation into groundwater



In this photo taken Wednesday, March 30, 2011, a farmer dumps raw milk in a hole made at his farmland in Kawamata, northeastern Japan. 200 tons of raw milk produced in Fukushima is wasted per day, Kyodo News reports.

By RYAN NAKASHIMA
and SHINO YUASA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO, Japan (AP)—Radiation exceeding government safety limits has seeped into groundwater under a tsunami-crippled Japanese nuclear plant, according to the operator, but has not affected drinking supplies.

The leak announced late Thursday could pose a long-term problem, however, and at the very least it is a concerning indicator of how far Tokyo Electric Power Co. is from bringing its plant under control. Workers have been battling to stabilize dangerously overheating reactors after cooling systems were knocked out in the March 11 tsunami.

TEPCO has increasingly asked for international help in its uphill battle, most recently ordering giant pumps from the U.S. that were to arrive later this month to spray water on the reactors.

The groundwater contamination—10,000 times higher than

the government standard for the plant—is the latest setback at the Fukushima Dai-ichi complex, where leaks have already contaminated food and hindered workers' ability to bring the plant under control. Iodine-131, a radioactive substance that decays quickly, was found nearly 50 feet (15 meters) below one of the reactors, according to TEPCO spokesman Naoyuki Matsumo.

While the contamination does not appear to have caused an immediate problem, there are two ways it could eventually affect drinking water if concentrations were high enough. One is if it were to seep into wells in the area. For now, a 12-mile (20-kilometer) radius around the plant has been cleared, though residents of the area are growing increasingly frustrated with evacuation orders and have been sneaking back to check on their homes.

The other concern is whether contaminated water from the plant could seep into underground waterways and eventually

into rivers used for drinking water. It's not yet clear if this is possible.

Seiki Kawagoe, an environmental science professor at Tohoku University, also noted that radiation tends to dissipate quickly in the ground, as it does in the ocean.

Radiation concerns have rattled the Japanese public, already struggling to return to normal life after the earthquake-borne tsunami pulverized hundreds of miles (kilometers) of the northeastern coast. Three weeks after the disaster in one of the most connected countries in the world, 260,000 households still do not have running water and 170,000 do not have electricity.

In the latest report of food becoming tainted, the government said Friday that it planned more tests on a cow slaughtered for beef that had slightly elevated levels of cesium, another radioactive particle. Officials stressed that the meat was never put on the market.

killing 12 people in what was the second attack that targeted the politician in as many days, police said. Maulana Fazlur Rehman, head of the Jamiat Ulema Islam party, told local TV after the attack in Charsadda town that he was unharmed but his vehicle was slightly damaged. The attack came a day after a suicide bomber blew himself up amid a crowd of Rehman's supporters minutes after he passed by in a vehicle.

Indonesian terror suspect shot, hurt during arrest

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The main Indonesian suspect in the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people was shot and wounded by security forces who arrested him in Pakistan, an Indonesian official said Thursday. Umar Patek, a deputy commander of al-Qaida's Southeast Asian affiliate Jemaah Islamiyah, was arrested in Pakistan on Jan. 25 after a tip from the CIA, Pakistani and Indonesian security officials have said. He was in a firefight that broke out during his arrest, Sutanto, head of Indonesia's intelligence agency, told reporters in Jakarta. One of the officers was also hurt, he said.

Bomber kills 12 in attack on convoy in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber struck a convoy carrying a prominent hardline Islamist leader in northwestern Pakistan on Thursday,

World

Gadhafi: Leaders of airstrikes must go, not me

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—

Moammar Gadhafi struck a defiant stance Thursday after two high-profile defections from his regime, saying he's not the one who should go—it's the Western leaders who have decimated his military with airstrikes who should resign immediately.

Gadhafi's message was undercut by its delivery—a scroll across the bottom of state TV as he remained out of sight.

dom and democracy and enjoy a good life."

Gadhafi accused the leaders of the countries attacking his forces of being "affected by power madness."

"The solution for this problem is that they resign immediately and their peoples find alternatives to them," the Libya state news agency quoted him as saying.

His government's forces

position spokesman Mustafa Gheriani said in Benghazi, the rebels' de facto capital.

He compared Gadhafi to a wounded animal.

"An injured wolf is much more dangerous than a healthy wolf. But we hope the defections continue and I think he'll find himself with no one around him," Gheriani said.

Most high-level Libyan officials are trying to defect but are

Heavy hitters

The A-10 and C-130 perform close ground attacks and provide support to protect ground troops or convoys.

A-10 Thunderbolt

Attacks at low altitude, sometimes less than 100 ft. above ground

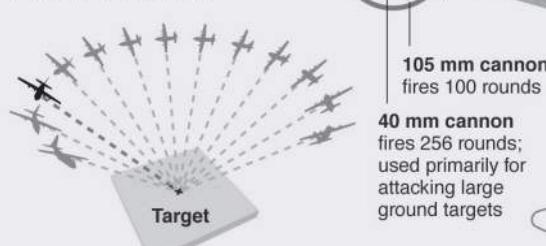


Can carry missiles, bombs under wings

Used for attacking ground targets such as tanks, dug-in troops

AC-130 Spectre

Using the principle of pylon turning, aircraft banks left and flies around target; thousands of rounds fired from left side of aircraft



30-mm Gatling gun fires 65 rounds a second from seven barrels, 21 ft. (6.4 m) long

105 mm cannon fires 100 rounds

40 mm cannon fires 256 rounds; used primarily for attacking large ground targets

© 2011 MCT
Source:
Federation of American
Scientists, U.S. Air Force,
Chicago Tribune
Graphic:
Lee Hulten

Because it flies low, the Spectre uses flares and other countermeasures to thwart ground-based anti-aircraft operations; may be accompanied by a fighter jet



Crew Five officers, eight enlisted

Length 97 ft. / 30 m

The White House said the strongman's inner circle was clearly crumbling with the loss of Foreign Minister Moussa Koussa, who flew from Tunisia to England on Wednesday.

Ali Abdessalam Treki, a former foreign minister and U.N. General Assembly president, announced his departure on several opposition websites the next day, saying "It is our nation's right to live in free-

under tight security and having difficulty leaving the country," said Ibrahim Dabbashi, the deputy ambassador in Libya's U.N. mission, which now backs the opposition.

Koussa is privy to all the inner workings of the regime, so his departure could open the door for some hard intelligence, though Britain refused to offer him immunity from prosecution.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ivory Coast fighters descend on main city

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—Fighters trying to install Ivory Coast's democratically elected president descended Thursday on its largest city and seat of power, poised for a final push to unseat the entrenched ruler. Forces backing Alassane Ouattara have overrun nearly 80 percent of the country as soldiers fled and towns fell in quick succession. The regular army put up almost no resistance during the four-day offensive, including in the ruler's hometown, where fighters broke into Laurent Gbagbo's compound and slept in his bed. But they may face fierce resistance on the peninsula where the presidential palace is located, surrounded on all sides by a

natural moat—Abidjan's glassy lagoon.

Italy ships migrants to mainland, asks EU for help

ROME (AP)—Italy shipped more than 2,000 migrants to detention camps on its mainland Thursday, relieving pressure on a tiny island off Sicily which has been overwhelmed by a relentless stream of boats full of illegal arrivals from North African shores. Lampedusa—a clear-watered fishing and tourist island with a population of 5,000—ran out of shelters days ago when migrant numbers peaked at over 6,000, forcing many of the Tunisians and others to sleep in the open air on docksides and in fields.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, April 2, 2011

Saipan Lions Club donates to Japan relief efforts



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Unity Lions Club officers and members led by president Ladyvir Canape, center, hands the check donation worth \$500 to NMI Japan Disaster Relief organizers Nick Nishikawa, Naotsugu Suzuki, and Yoichi Matsumura during a presentation at the Hyatt Regency general manager's office on Wednesday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Unity Lions Club has donated \$500 to the non-profit group NMI Japan Disaster Relief to benefit those who were affected by the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

Club officers and members led by president Ladyvir Canape presented the check on Wednesday to NMI Japan Disaster Relief organizers led by Hotel Association of the NMI chair Nick Nishikawa, Japanese Society of NMI vice chair Yoichi Matsumura, and Kingfisher Golf Links executive general manager Naotsugu Suzuki at the Hyatt Regency general manager's office.

Joining Canape were Region

II District 204 first vice-district governor Pastor Gagaring, zone chair Jose Pepito Digno, first vice president Sancho Escobar, second vice president Orlie Ebuen, secretary Ruth Torrecampo, treasurer Noemi Catigan, twister Willy Wagan, directors Guillermo T. Canape Jr., Saturnino Banting, Beth Escobar, Argie Buensalido, honorary member Vic Venus, members Aida Gagaring, Lucy Buensalido, Adrialen Dela Cruz, Joey Julianda,

and Donato Galvez.

According to Canape, the Club generated the donation through a hot lunch fundraising drive.

Canape thanked all the members of the Club for their efforts and contribution that made the hot lunch fundraising a success.

"Our club, with all the efforts of its officers and members, is also extending our heartfelt condolences to whoever [was] affected by this disaster," she added.

Nishikawa thanked the Club for supporting the ongoing efforts to provide relief assistance to the people of Japan.

"We are pleased to accept the donation. We sincerely appreciate the people's support and friendship at this time of disaster," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Nishikawa, who also chairs the Japanese Society of NMI,

said that what happened to Japan is a big tragedy that they have never experienced in the past.

"The whole world is helping Japan in different ways and we are thankful," he added.

Nishikawa recounted that the NMI Japan Disaster Relief is a group they created under the auspices of the Governor's office and the Marianas Visitors Authority to pull together resources to help the victims of the devastation.

The group is scheduled to hold a radio-thon drive at the Garapan Fishing Base starting at 6am, with a walkathon at 4pm.

For his part, Matsumura encouraged the community to attend the event to "help us help Japan."

Nishikawa said all proceeds will be endorsed to the Japan Consular Office of Saipan.

BSP reviews growth target for OFW remittances

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said it was reviewing its 8-percent growth projection for remittances to the country, taking into account the potentially dampening effects of the events in the Middle East and Japan.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said in a briefing Friday that the central bank was monitoring the impact of the unfavorable external developments on foreign-currency inflows to the Philippines.

He said there might be scope for downward revision of the remittance growth forecast because the political unrest in the Middle East and North Africa region and the disaster

in Japan might cause job losses and a consequent decline in remittances.

Last year, overseas Filipinos sent home a record \$18.8 billion to the country.

Officials said remittances

projection would be kept.

While there are dampening factors affecting remittances, there are also factors boosting the OFW sector. These include a potential rise in demand for labor in Japan as reconstruction

"[Remittance growth] may be slower due to the external developments, but there may be countervailing factors as well," Guinigundo said.

Remittances, which are equivalent to about 10 percent of the country's economy, are a closely watched economic indicator as these largely fuel consumption of Filipino households. Consumption is a major growth driver for the Philippine economy.

In 2009, when the last global economic turmoil was said to have peaked, economists said remittances helped the Philippines escape recession.

The Philippines grew 1.1 percent in 2009 when most industrialized countries contracted, and rebounded to a record growth of 7.3 percent last year.

might still grow this year, although an 8-percent jump might be revised lower.

"We are taking into account the impact of the developments outside [on remittances to the Philippines]," Guinigundo said.

Nonetheless, he said there was a chance the remittance growth



efforts after the earthquake and tsunami build up. In this case, demand for Filipino labor could increase, Guinigundo said.

Another potentially offsetting factor is the improving global economy that may continue to boost demand for Filipino labor.

UFO induction souvenir book to raise funds for Japan relief

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization CNMI Inc., the umbrella organization of some 30 groups, has already joined the relief efforts to help the victims of the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan last month.

Incoming president Bong Malasarte said in a phone interview that the UFO generated funds for the cause through the solicitation of sponsors for the new set of officers' induction souvenir book.

The newly elected officers will be inducted to serve until December 2012, equivalent to a two-year term, tonight at the Saipan World Resort.

Other elected officers are Hector Sevilla, VP-Admin (MAFEA); Paul Madriaga, VP-Internal (NAMFREL); Bok Enano, VP-External (BAYANI); Jun Liberato, secretary (MAFEA); Yoly De Ramos, assistant secretary (BAYANI); Evelyn Deazeta, treasurer (BAYANI); Lyn Dela Cruz, assistant treasurer (CNMI POWER); Tony So-

riano, auditor (SIP); and Charlie Centina (VISMINDA), James Galvez (CNMI POWER), and Joel Dupra (BAYANI), public relation officers.

They will be inducted by Consul General Medardo Macaraig.

"We wanted to help the people that were affected by the disaster in Japan. Since the crowd would be there for the induction, we decided to go ahead with the solicitation," Malasarte told *Saipan Tribune*.

He added that the solicitation coinciding with the induction is "hitting two birds with one stone."

Malasarte, however, disclosed that only a few have agreed to the souvenir book sponsorship, with the amount solicited to be announced during the induction.

"We will turn over whatever we solicited to the Japanese Society," he said.

For more information, call Malasarte at 287-5525 or the secretary at 235-1314. You can also send email to united.filipino.org@gmail.com.

US backs PH over China executions of drug mules

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AFP)—The United States on Thursday voiced support for the Philippines after China executed three Filipinos on drug charges in defiance of repeated appeals.

"I believe that this is something that we will want to support our Filipino friends on," Kurt Campbell, the assistant secretary of state for East Asia, told Congress. He said he would speak with Philippine officials in coming days.

The Philippines had pressed for China to spare the lives of the three. In December, President Benigno Aquino III said the Philippines skipped the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony for Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo in hopes of persuading Beijing.

"It's fairly unusual in Asia when a government makes a very, almost personal, appeal at the very highest levels," Campbell said.

"I think you know how strongly the Philippine government and President Aquino's own cabinet felt about this issue. To be turned

away in such a manner, I think it was a little bit of a surprise to Filipino friends," he said.

However, Campbell said he was not suggesting that the three should have gone unpunished.

The three Filipinos were arrested in 2008 for attempting to smuggle heroin into China. The Philippines, a largely Roman Catholic nation where many oppose the death penalty, said the trio had been duped by crime syndicates.

Campbell was responding to questions by Representative Ed Royce, a Republican whose district in southern California has many Filipino Americans.

"The radical disparity of the death penalty here when the people organizing it get off scot-free is riveting," Royce said.

The United States has a long-standing alliance with the Philippines, a former US colony. A number of Asian nations have recently sought closer ties with Washington amid concerns over a rising China.

DFA: Many Filipinos won't leave Libya for their jobs

By JERRY E. ESPLANADA,
CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Thousands of Filipinos have ignored the government's last call to return home, preferring to stay in Libya rather than face a bleak future in the Philippines, Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario reported Wednesday.

Del Rosario made a second trip in less than a month to the Libyan capital, Tripoli, overland from Tunisia on Tuesday, staying for several hours, meeting with Filipinos at the Philippine Embassy and telling them that the Aquino administration's voluntary repatriation program from the insurrection-torn country was ending the following day.

Del Rosario learned from leaders of the Filipino community that "many preferred putting their lives at risk over the prospects of non-employment and economic hardship" in the Philippines, said Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Eduardo Malaya.

One of the Filipino leaders told Del Rosario "many want to go home, but they preferred to



Filipino Muslims attend the Friday prayers at the Blue Mosque at suburban Taguig city, east of Manila, Philippines Friday March 25, 2011. Hundreds of Filipino Muslims later held an anti-war rally outside the mosque to protest the allied forces' air strike in Libya.

stay in Libya because there are no job opportunities in the Philippines," Malaya said in a briefing on the DFA chief's daylong trip to Tripoli.

Hopelessness

President Benigno Aquino

III read to reporters during a visit to Cagayan de Oro City Wednesday a text message that Del Rosario had sent him about the Filipino workers' reluctance to go home.

"A very large group of leaders was at the embassy to ex-

press thanks to the Aquino government for protecting them by encouraging repatriation. But placing their lives at risk was ... preferred by many over the prospects of no employment and economic hopelessness," the President quoted Del Rosario as

Pay doubled for Filipino nurses still in Libya

By PHILIP TUBEZA,
JERRY E. ESPLANADA,
GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—They're in the midst of a shooting war and the government has urged them to evacuate, but several thousand Filipinos still in Libya—many of them nurses—are not coming home just yet: Their employers have doubled their salaries and promised them hazard pay and other benefits.

But the Filipinos are asking for one thing from the Philippine government—assistance not for their repatriation but help in sending money to their families back home.

Labor Undersecretary Danilo Cruz said many of the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) still in Libya did not want to go home despite what Cruz called a "mandatory evacuation" order from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

The DFA spokesperson, Assistant Secretary J. Eduardo Malaya, said the department was "on a full evacuation mode," or Alert Level 4.

A senior official said there was really no difference between "full evacuation mode" and "mandatory evacuation" except that the DFA did not want to use the term "because we cannot impose it on anybody," given the OFWs' different circumstances.

President Benigno Aquino III said Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario, who is in Bahrain, had informed him that the government was making a last attempt to get the Filipinos out of Libya.

He said Del Rosario had told him Philippine authorities "were

informing all of our citizens, and especially in Libya, that this was the last call."

"We wrote a letter to the hospital informing them of the mandatory evacuation and their management has already released the passports of our Filipino workers, but 90 percent of them refused to go home," Cruz told reporters.

"We also have another 100 Filipinos who are in the desert but they also do not want to go home. They have enough food there," he added.

Evacuation costs

Government agencies could not pin down the exact number of Filipinos still in Libya, with estimates ranging from 2,000 to 3,500.

Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr. told a hearing of the House of Representatives committee on foreign affairs that the government had evacuated all Filipinos who wanted to leave Libya—numbering between 9,000 and 14,000—at a cost of nearly P500 million.

"We have brought back as many Filipinos as we could. The Filipinos left behind in Libya are staying there of their own volition and free will," he said.

Conejos could not say how many Filipinos were still in Libya, but he said the single biggest group comprised 2,000 nurses, doctors and medical technologists.

He said the Filipinos chose to stay in government hospitals, especially in Tripoli and Benghazi, after their salaries were doubled or tripled and they did not want to lose their benefits after working for years in Libya.

Conejos said that since 98 percent of OFWs in Libya were employed by multinational corporations, the government had to wait for them to live up to their work commitments.

\$3,000 a month

At Al-Fateh University near Tripoli, 37 Filipino professors/instructors refused to go home and instead asked the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) for assistance on how to send home money, Labor Attaché Jaime Jimenez told reporters.

"We have a war here but you can see how different people react ... what's important to them," Jimenez said.

He said the Al-Fateh instructors had asked OWWA to lend their families money in the meantime and that they would pay it back once they were able to remit their salaries.

"We've received reports that their salaries have been doubled and they were given additional hazard pay, premiums. They also do not want to lose their gratuity pay or retirement benefits," Cruz said.

A nursing instructor in Libya receives as much as \$3,000 (or around P130,000) while the gratuity pay of other workers could reach P1 million, labor officials said.

The officials estimate that there could still be up to 3,500 Filipinos in that war-ravaged country: 1,500 in eastern Libya and 2,000 in the western part of the country.

The militant migrant group Migrante said that there could still be 8,000 Filipinos in Libya as of Sunday.

As of noon time Monday,

only 100 Filipinos had registered for repatriation back to the Philippines.

Staying put

Cruz said labor officials were scheduled to evacuate 40 Filipinos from Tripoli on Monday via a four-hour bus ride to Djerba in Tunisia.

He said the government had rented two villas in Djerba to temporarily house these Filipinos while it was also trying to hire another ferry from Crete or Malta.

"However, the initial feedback we got was that ship owners in Crete and Malta are hesitant to send a vessel because the Libyan authorities might seize them since the (bombing of Libya) is (also being conducted by European countries)," Cruz said.

At Saraya Corp. near Tripoli, 23 Filipinos were ready to go home but were insisting on getting their two months' worth of salary.

"Their company is willing to pay but the banks are closed. We've told them that the embassy would make sure that they are paid later but they were inconsistent," Jimenez said.

Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis earlier said the situation in Libya had become "very dangerous" and that the government was trying its best to convince the Filipinos to leave.

Philippine Ambassador Alejandro Vicente and the rest of the embassy staff in Tripoli "will remain to take care of our country's interests and ensure the safety of the Filipinos who chose to remain for personal reasons," Malaya said. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

saying in his text message.

Mr. Aquino said it was sad that Filipinos "see hope in a place where there is conflict rather than in our country which is peaceful." He said he could not blame them if their priority was to sustain the needs of their families.

Only 31 Filipino workers joined Del Rosario for the trip back to the Tunisian border town of Djerba, according to Malaya.

At Djerba, Malaya said Del Rosario's group joined 23 other Filipinos who were earlier relocated there by Philippine Ambassador to Libya Alejandro Vicente.

Another 30 Filipinos, including 19 students, were expected to arrive in Djerba Wednesday, Malaya said.

In the past week, only three Filipinos from the rebel-controlled eastern city of Benghazi had so far arrived at As Sallum at the Egyptian border, Malaya said.

Lightning visit

He said a DFA team was in Tobruk, also in the east, to "search for Filipinos who may have found their way there from Benghazi."

On Feb. 27, Del Rosario said he made a similar lightning visit to Tripoli to whisk out 400 Filipinos in a convoy of 40 cars to the Tunisian border, crossing to the other side in six hours amid gunfire along the way and a crush of tens of thousands of migrant workers scrambling to get out.

Malaya insisted that "the bulk of our nationals have already exited Libya through the coordinated efforts of the DFA and the Department of Labor and Employment."

But he said the embassy staff "will remain in Tripoli to take care of our country's interests and ensure the safety of the Filipinos who chose to remain for personal reasons."

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than the air strikes in Libya. They asked the government how the government could help them in sending their remittances," the Philippine Embassy said.

Del Rosario has "promised to arrive at a mechanism for sending remittances through the embassy," the embassy said.

Del Rosario directed Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis to remain in Tripoli for a few days to "take care of the remittance issue and the last-minute repatriates."

Del Rosario earlier visited Japan to look into the situation of Filipinos affected by a colossal earthquake, a devastating tsunami and threats from radiation from exploding nuclear plant reactors.

He then proceeded to Bahrain and Yemen during the weekend to review the situation of Filipino workers threatened by political tensions in the two Arab countries.

Communications cut

More than 9,000 Filipinos have fled Libya after a rebellion calling for an end to the four-decade rule of Moammar Gadhafi broke out in mid-February.

It was unclear how Del Rosario's announcement of a deadline for the voluntary repatriation was relayed to the Filipinos scattered in Libya since the coalition air strikes began over the weekend.

Malaya insisted that "the bulk of our nationals have already exited Libya through the coordinated efforts of the DFA and the Department of Labor and Employment."

In an earlier report, the Philippine Embassy said Filipino workers who stayed in Libya were promised by their employers pay raises and other incentives.

Remittances

"The Filipino workers are actually more concerned about the difficulty in remitting money to their families in the Philippines

LABOR EXPORTER SAYS: '3 executed Filipinos should not be called OFWs'

MANILA, Philippines (Philippine Daily Inquirer)—While commiserating with the families of the three Filipinos put to death in China for drug trafficking, a recruitment agency leader Thursday said the term "OFW" (or overseas Filipino worker) should not be used to refer to the convicts.

Alfredo Palmiery, president of Federated Association of Manpower Exporters Inc., Thursday said Sally Villanueva, Ramon Credo and Elizabeth Batain, who were executed by lethal injection on Wednesday, had no record of being OFWs.

"[They] were never hired by any legitimate agency, they had no working contracts [and] working visas, and they were lured into transporting illegal drugs by a foreign syndicate preying on jobless Filipinos looking to make a quick buck," Palmiery said in a statement.

"It is an insult to the millions of OFWs all over the world to call the three OFWs as they had no intention to work in China and were merely convinced to travel as tourists to bring contraband into China," he said.

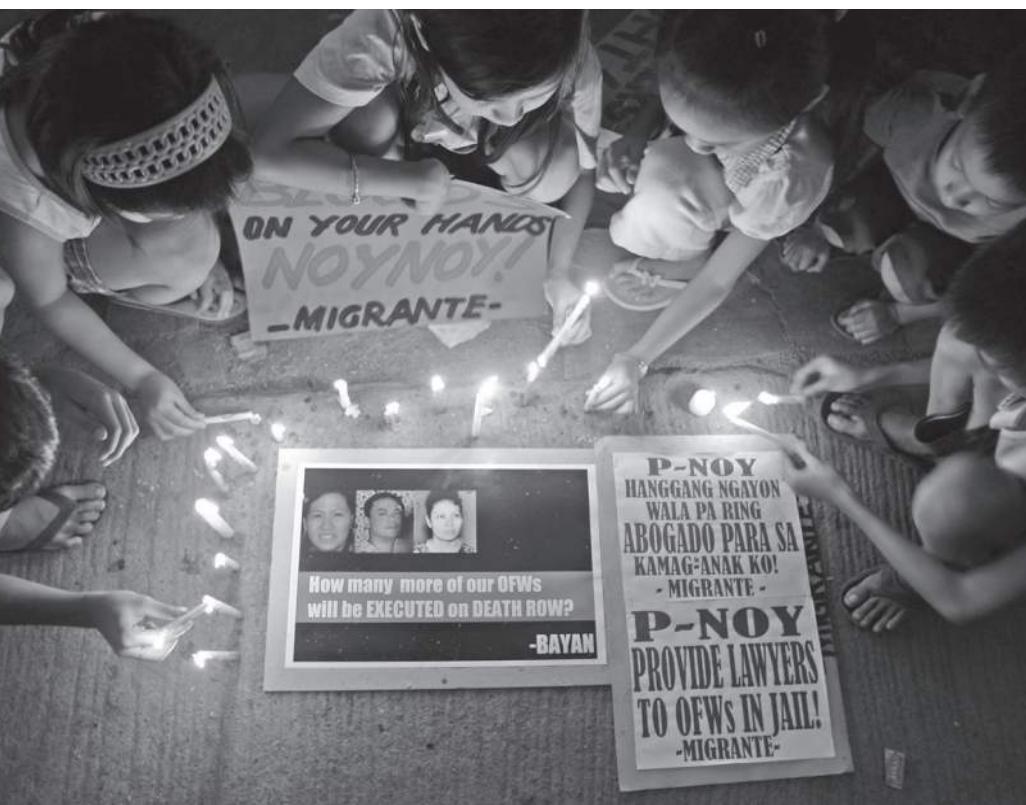
Palmiery pointed out that legitimate OFWs had all the necessary documents to prove that they were legally hired to work at government-approved jobs, and that "as OFWs, they are ready to comply with the laws of the host countries."

He said the executions were "the fault of the government offices that allowed these drug mules to leave the country with the contraband hidden in their suitcases."

"How these drug mules were able to leave undetected ... is something our airport officials have to explain," he said.

Upgraded scanners

Villanueva, Batain and Credo were separately caught in China in 2008 with 4-6 kilos of heroin in their luggage.



Young neighbors of Sally Ordinario-Villanueva, who was convicted of drug trafficking in China, places candles around slogans outside their house in suburban Quezon city, north of Manila, Philippines on Wednesday March 30, 2011. **AP**

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) has promised to prevent a repeat of such cases through stringent measures to detect drugs on the persons or in the luggage of passengers flying overseas.

Thirty upgraded X-ray scanners at Ninoy Aquino International Airport now enable security officers to spot even a few grams of illegal substances in bags, according to Vicente Guerzon, MIAA assistant general manager for security and emergency services.

"It's not only for China. Our efforts are for all countries so that no one will no longer be able to slip past us," he said, adding that the scanners could also detect weapons and explosives.

Guerzon said the MIAA was also in the process of acquiring full-body scanners that would enable security officers to detect drugs in the body.

Asked about a possible col-

lusion between security officers or personnel and drug couriers, Guerzon said: "It needs to be proven. So far, there have been no charges, and no one has filed a complaint."

But he acknowledged the possibility of "human and technical glitches" in the airport security checks.

An insider at the Office for Transportation Security (OTS) said the Department of Transportation and Communications had formed a technical working group to look into how drug mules managed to slip out of the country.

The OTS oversees the X-ray scanners but the Philippine Drug Enforcement Authority (PDEA) has jurisdiction over all drug cases, said the insider, who asked not to be named for lack of authority to discuss the issue publicly.

He claimed the PDEA lacked personnel to inspect all departing

passengers and their luggage.

Focus on syndicates

Philippine National Police Director General Raul Bacalzo said he had ordered PNP units nationwide to step up operations against foreign syndicates using Filipinos as drug mules.

Bacalzo told reporters that while he was satisfied with the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force's raids on illegal drug laboratories, the PNP's primary antinarcotics unit should take the lead in government's efforts to stem drug trafficking.

He said he had also instructed the PNP Aviation Security Group to be on guard for persons transporting banned drugs through the airports.

"The important thing is for the PNP to be more vigilant and maintain our own profiling of suspected drug mules," he said.

"Besides, those being victim-

ized by the syndicates are fellow Filipinos who also fall victim to illegal recruiters."

The Department of Foreign Affairs is also preparing to launch an intensified campaign against international drug syndicates using Filipinos as couriers, Assistant Foreign Secretary J. Eduardo Malaya said Thursday. But he did not provide details.

Malaya earlier told the Inquirer that the 70-plus Filipinos on death row in China for drug smuggling "should serve as a wake-up call" to Filipino travelers.

"No amount of money can ever justify taking the risks involved in breaking the law," he said.

Malaya has repeatedly appealed to Filipino travelers "not to allow themselves to be victims of international drug syndicates."

"We should take responsibility for our own actions and, at the very least, be always on guard against inducement ... Refrain from bringing any package for others, even supposed new employers or friends," he said.

Filling the gaps

Marikina Rep. Romero Quimbo has filed House Bill No. 4503 (or the proposed Anti-Drug Mule Act of 2011), which aims to fill the gaps in current laws against drugs and human trafficking.

Quimbo said there was an immediate need to establish the framework of a law that would view drug mules as victims of drug traffickers.

He said the Wednesday executions in China should be seen as the tipping point in the government's resolve to prosecute drug pushers and traffickers.

Quimbo said the drug-mule scheme was preying on the vulnerability of Filipinos wanting to earn from the trade in illegal drugs.

"March 30, 2011, is an unfortunate and tragic day and puts us lawmakers on the spot because our current laws

against drugs and human trafficking have gaps that are prone to abuse," he said.

San Juan City Rep. Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito called on the government to restore the 50-percent cut on the Legal Assistance Fund for OFWs worldwide.

He said the fund was necessary to assist OFWs accused of crimes in other countries.

Ejercito said the constraints implemented by the Aquino administration on the 2011 national budget was one of the reasons government assistance to OFWs had become very limited.

He cited the computations of Migrante International showing that a meager P7,000 was now allotted to each OFW after the fund's total budget was cut by half.

Save them

Migrante-Middle East (M-ME) based in Saudi Arabia is calling on Vice President Jejomar Binay to "do your best" to save the lives of eight OFWs on death row in the Middle East kingdom.

M-ME regional coordinator John Leonard Monterona said Binay is on a four-day official visit to Riyadh to "plead to the host government to show mercy" on the Filipinos, among them Don Lanuza, Rolando Gonzales, Edison Gonzales and Eduardo Arcilla.

In an e-mail to the Inquirer, Monterona also expressed hope that "our calls to the Aquino administration to work hard in saving the lives of OFWs on death row would be met with all seriousness and a proactive stance."

M-ME had earlier proposed to Malacañang the creation of an interagency task force that would closely monitor and work for a commutation of the death sentences of 100-plus Filipinos on death row worldwide. *Reports from Philip C. Tuba, DJ Yap, Jerry E. Esplana, Marlon Ramos and Cynthia D. Balana*

Binay to provide scholarships to the kids of executed drug mules

By JERRY E. ESPLANADA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Scholarship grants await the children of Sally Villanueva, Elizabeth Batain and Ramon Credo, the three Filipino drug mules who were executed in China on Wednesday, according to Vice President Jejomar C. Binay.

Binay, who is on a four-day official visit to Saudi Arabia,

Filipino faces execution on Malaysia drug charge

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A Filipino college lecturer is facing the death penalty on charges of smuggling marijuana, a Malaysian prosecutor said.

Government lawyer Wan Shahruddin Wan Ladin says

announced that "the children of Villanueva, Batain and Credo will be given scholarships through the JCB Foundation." Binay chairs the JCB, which is short for Jejomar C. Binay.

In a statement, Binay said "ensuring that their children will have a bright future is the least we can do for the families of our three kababayans."

The three Filipinos were arrested separately in 2008 for smuggling 4-6 kilograms of heroin to China.

Meted the death penalty by

Aida Dizon Garcia pleaded innocent in a court in Malaysia's central Negri Sembilan state Thursday. A conviction carries the mandatory penalty of execution by hanging.

Wan Shahruddin says the

Supreme People's Court in Beijing, they were initially set to be executed by lethal injection on February 20 and 21.

The Chinese government, however, delayed their execution when Binay went to Beijing and appealed for clemency.

Last March 23, the Department of Foreign Affairs announced the Chinese authorities decided to push through with the execution on March 30.

she carried.

The court allowed Garcia until April 20 to get a lawyer.

Wan Shahruddin said Friday that Garcia was traveling as a tourist. Police trailed her bus because of a tip.

Over a million new US green card holders in 2010—study

WASHINGTON (AFP)—

Over a million foreigners were granted legal permanent residency in the United States in fiscal year 2010 that ended in September, the Department of Homeland Security said Thursday.

Most of the 1,042,625 new legal permanent residents (54 percent) already lived in the United States when they were granted their green cards, the documents attesting to legal residence, according to DHS data.

Nearly two-thirds of the new recipients obtained the legal residency status based on family ties to a US citizen or legal U.S. permanent resident.

Their top countries of birth were Mexico (13 percent), China (7 percent) and India (7 percent).

Under the Immigration Act of 1990, the department places an annual limit on the number of new applicants of between 416,000 and 675,000 for family-sponsored preference, employment-based preference and diversity immigrants.

The number of family-sponsored applicants are limited to 226,000 to 480,000 per year.

Despite the number of green cards issued each year, some 10.8 million undocumented aliens still live in the United States, according to DHS figures.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Paolo humbled by tragedy

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Paolo Bediones spent his birthday in Japan to cover the aftermath of the massive earthquake that triggered a tsunami.

"It was my most significant birthday ever," he said. "The devastation I saw with my very eyes made me appreciate being blessed with another year in my life. I was humbled to see the Japanese being so disciplined amid the crisis."

The birthday boy is raring to host "Extreme Makeover Home Edition."

"We will stick to the format of the US version with slight modifications to suit the Pinoy audience," he explained. "One

RUSHES

James Dean's secret

By THE INQUIRER ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

"Rebel Without a Cause" screen legend James Dean was molested by his childhood minister, according to an interview with Elizabeth Taylor published Friday.

Hollywood icon Taylor, who died March 23 at age 79, revealed Dean's secret in an interview given 14 years ago, but requested that it not be published until after her death.

"I loved Jimmy. I'm going to tell you something, but it's off the record until I die," best-selling author Kevin Sessums quoted Taylor as saying, in the interview published by the Daily Beast online.

"When Jimmy was 11 and his mother passed away, he began to be molested by his minister. I think that haunted him the rest of his life... We talked about it a lot.

"During 'Giant' we'd stay up nights and talk and talk, and that was one of the things he confessed to me," she said, referring to the movie in which Taylor and Dean co-starred.

Dean died in a car crash in 1955 at age 24, shortly after making "Rebel Without a Cause." **AFP**

Top of the Talkshows

For those who missed last weekend's TV gabfests (and why we are moved, if we are moved):

■ Renz Fernandez on being paired with Kim Chiu in "Your Song Presents: Kim": "OK talaga katrabaho si Kim. Ang ganda niya, eh." (Baka puro tingen lang ang eksena n'yo ha.)

■ Sarah Geronimo on speculations that her reconciliation with Cristine Reyes was just a publicity stunt for her movie "Catch Me... I'm In Love": "Matagal

requirement is for the participant to own the house we will make over."

And when will he have a queen for his own home?

"That can wait," he replied. "It would be unfair for any girl to have a relationship with me right now. I'm free only for a few hours in the morning and afternoon. So ang date namin breakfast lang (laughs)."

Doesn't he miss hosting a show biz talk show? "I do, except the intriga part (laughs). I'm more fulfilled doing the news. It's a different dimension. I like to keep evolving."

Holding on

I was so moved by Zsazsa Padilla's musings about the state



Paolo Bediones

of Tito Dolphy's health. "I don't foresee a final day," she said. "I keep telling him to hold on. I am not letting go." No doubt the King of Comedy's survival rate increases with Zsa by his side.

Master copy

Cesar Montano gave me a master copy of his soon-to-be released CD. It contains eight soothing cuts with his composition, "Patawarin," and one made by Arnel Pineda, "Pagdating Ng Araw."

"Tayong dalawa pa lang ang may kopya nito," he said. "So pag nagka-pirated copy nito, ikaw lang ang may kagagawan (laughs)."

It was such a delight to hear him sing two of my favorite cuts at our regular Thursday Club in his resto, Bellissimo.

Buboy was en route to Shanghai the next day to check out the location where "Kung Fu Hustle" was shot.

"Dun ang-shooting namin ni Binoe ng action movie namin," he revealed.

For Edu's dad

My good friend (and tireless public servant) Edu Manzano never ceases to amaze me. Recently, he inaugurated the Adri-

an Manzano Cancer Wing at the Philippine Children's Medical Center in Quezon City in memory of his late father.

"My father really loved children," Edu explained. "He was especially concerned with helping children in need, not out of pity, but out of great admiration."

The hospital is said to have some of the best specialists in the Asean region, led by executive director Dr. Julius Lecciones, Chief of Cancer & Hematology. The AMCW is definitely a good place for these dedicated doctors to work miracles.

High school memories

My fondest high school recollection was my JS prom where my escort was Albert Martinez. His brother William was my boyfriend back then, but since he had a shoot in Brazil, he told me that I cannot attend the prom if my escort won't be Albert.

To this day, Albert, William and I smile when we remember that happy time. My HS yearbook description goes: "A girl who parties even on weekdays and yet usually receives the highest marks in class." How kind of my classmates to say that.

Sarah thankful to Sharon

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—

Singer-actress Sarah Geronimo was pleasantly "surprised" when Megastar Sharon Cuneta rushed to her aid at the height of her word war late last year with sexy rival Cristine Reyes over her former boyfriend Rayver Cruz.

"I am thankful to Miss Sharon," she told Inquirer during a thanksgiving bash for her new film, "Catch Me... I'm in Love," with Gerald Anderson and Matteo Guidicelli.

Sharon made it clear in an earlier interview that Sarah didn't ask her to intervene. She's no tattle tale, Sarah asserted. "We were not that close at the time,



Singer-actress Sarah Geronimo

and yet she vouched for me. It was overwhelming," Sarah said in Filipino. She said Sharon thus gave her an example that she could emulate.

"She showed me how to be a true friend. She'd do anything to defend a friend, but remain civil and polite. I'll try to be that kind of friend."

Show biz pals keep her

square meals."

DINGDONG AVANZADO: "Unforgettable time was when I joined Kundirana in third year. I was into different sports, became a member of the basketball team, but ended up as a singer in the most celebrated group of La Salle Green Hills."

RACHEL ALEJANDRO: "I was a bit of a nerd so I got good grades. I was one of the boys, not the one they would court. I would always have a crush on some guy who would ignore me. The torment of unrequited love haunted me all my high school life."

ARNELL IGNACIO: "I pretended to have fainted in class as a favor to my classmates who wanted to piss off the teacher. Funny thing is I shouted, 'Hinitatay ako!' At bagsak ako sa Conduct parati!"

JED MADELA: "I was an 'invisible' student because my presence was insignificant. I miss eating isaw when whenever we hung out at the football field."

CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA: "I was a mixture of a geek who plays basketball and football yet sings to the girls in campus during Valentine's Day. My fondest moment was when the student council commissioned me and my friends to be singing telegrams. We had a free day and we sang to the most beautiful girls in high school."

VERNI VARGA: "I joined a declamation contest, the volleyball team and the dance troupe. We would join competitions and represent our school. Singing was never my top priority till my classmates told me, 'Verne, stop dancing!'"

AGOT ISIDRO: "I remember hanging out with my high school barkada in the neighborhood sari-sari store. We would have soft drinks and chips while spotting cute guys from the neighboring boys' school. I was just a regular student but I was president of the glee club during my senior year."

daunt her, though. "I'm used to it," she said.

Not comfortable

Although relieved that she has patched things up with Cristine, Sarah declined a suggestion to perform with Cristine and Rayver in a production number on ABS-CBN's Sunday variety show, "ASAP XV."

"My mom and I told the staff that I wasn't comfortable performing with Rayver yet, although I could join Cristine onstage anytime because she's also a girl and I understand her," the singing champ said.

"I may not be able to control my emotions [if I go onstage with Rayver]. I'm just being true to myself. Why should the three of us perform together? I hope people will be more sensitive to our feelings."

Maharlika – Opinyon

Drug mules: Even in grief, we are confused

Even our unrequited prayers for the three executed Filipinos show that we fundamentally misunderstand the problem that we face. We were half-hearted in objecting to the death penalty. We called the drug mules OFWs when in fact they were not. We lump them together with Flor Contemplacion and Sarah Balabagan, and fail to discern the differences in their cases, or ask if we could have timely asked the Chinese courts to mitigate the penalty. Protest banners call for "Justice for Credo, Villanueva and Batain." I'm sure the Chinese will say, "Well, that's exactly what we gave them!", and argumentatively our only rejoinder will be to impose our own standards of justice upon the Middle Kingdom.

Of course we must grieve that three Filipinos, forced by poverty to serve as drug mules, have been executed in a foreign land. As a nation, we must ensure that our government reaches out to vulnerable Filipinos on trial before foreign courts and ensure that they have proper legal assistance. As a people, we must look inward as well, and ask ourselves why millions of our countrymen sacrifice so much just to give their families a decent life, while top dogs in government corporations reward themselves obscene sums and top generals leave office with million-peso "pabaons." All these, while a passive nation led by its ombudsman looks the other way.

In sum, we empathized viscerally but maybe our brains lagged behind our hearts. We need to reconcile our official position, which is to plead for mercy, with our public rhetoric, which is that of moral outrage. To start with, we should have been outraged at the death

penalty itself. We were not, because deep down within the Filipino heart, we actually approve of it in the first place. Look at the historical record. We abolished capital punishment in the 1987 Constitution "unless, for compelling reasons involving heinous crimes, the Congress hereafter [restores] it." And in 1993, restore it Congress did, as a facile response to the rise of kidnap for ransom gangs. In April 2001, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo effectively suspended the death penalty by automatically commuting all sentences. By 2003, Arroyo lifted the de facto moratorium. In early 2004, Pope John Paul II asked us to stop all executions, and Arroyo obliged. In June 2006, on the eve of Arroyo's visit to the Vatican, she signed RA 9346 abolishing the death penalty once again. There have since been periodic attempts to restore the death penalty.

For us, the death penalty debate has been mere political football, bereft of any deeply held moral consensus. And for the current football season, the death penalty argument would not have swayed the Chinese, who apparently have the highest rate of executions worldwide and, even worse, are instinctively resistant to international pressure. But handled well, we could have capitalized on the global consensus against the death penalty, the same consensus that we mobilized to save the life of Sarah Balabagan, the Filipina in the United Arab Emirates who stabbed and killed her employer who was raping her.

Two, there is a stark difference between the cases of Contemplacion and Balabagan vis-à-vis the drug mules in China. For Contemplacion, accused of murder, we argued that she made her first confession without the benefit of counsel. For Sarah, a rape victim, we argued self-defense. In none of our pleas to China do we even plead the innocence of the convicted Filipinos. For the Xiamen and Shenzhen executions, the best we could muster is to fix the blame on the drug traffickers fronting as job recruiters, because the actual drug carriers were apparently complicit in the crime.

Rizal the metrosexual

Whenever I fill up a form that asks for "Sex" that leaves a blank space instead of boxes to tick with a choice of "M" or "F," I am always tempted to write: "Every day except Ash Wednesday and Good Friday." Elementary school biology taught me the basic difference between male and female, but Filipino grammar provides more than the two categories, lalaki (male) and babae (female). Some words are classified as walang kasarian (no gender) like a rock, and di-tyak (uncertain) for gays, lesbians and transgenders.

Once upon a time "gay" had only one meaning: it was a synonym for "happy." This often disappoints students who think otherwise when they read an English translation of Rizal's 1884 diary where he wrote, "I am gay." The TV reality show "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" plays on stereotypes: straight men do not know about food, grooming, style and fashion like a gay man. Stylish straight guys are branded as "metrosexual"—a term my students use for Rizal after reading his letters and diaries and seeing how keen he was on his looks, his clothes and the way he carried himself.

The first letter Rizal wrote from Germany, dated Feb. 7, 1886, was addressed to his sister Maria and describes the French and German ways of decorating a home:

"Although French taste reigns everywhere, nevertheless it is modified in every locality and according to the status and imagination of the people. Speaking about the dining room, for example, in Europe it is the general feeling that it must be gay, attractive and pleasant. In the houses of the very rich, you'll see paintings of landscapes, fruits and animals by the greatest masters. You'll also see paintings of oysters, prawns, lobsters, fish, etc., etc. Others who cannot afford to pay so much are satisfied with copies, and the poorest with lithographs."

"In some houses in Germany and particularly in Holland, what I see in pictures is that they hang on the walls old plates with some color, some designs. In some houses they'll show you the plate belonging to a grandfather, to a grandmother—a huge plate 50 years old, a century perhaps, and in the Pardo de Tavera house at Paris I saw beside some plates of Chinese porcelain nearly two centuries old, blue plates like those from China we have for daily use, if I'm not mistaken. These plate decorations are very charming, especially when the designs are fanciful and the colors are gay."

"On the other hand, Italian houses have on their walls gay bottles of Chianti wine whose lower parts are wrapped in straw, their neck being very slender [sketch], and placed in the corners are small bas-

Three, I sense an initial ambivalence by our government on the issue of drug mules on trial abroad. Did we earlier give them legal aid during their trial? Even after conviction, was there any room for the judges to mitigate the penalty? Was there any room for executive clemency for the executive branch to pardon or reduce the penalty? The one-month stay of execution gained by Vice President Jejomar Binay was a feat, because China is itself building up its "rule of law" institutions, and appeals from the political branches of the Philippines addressed to China's judicial agencies were an uphill battle to start with. In other words, the execution of convicted drug traffickers is what we call "national treatment," i.e., how China treats its own citizens similarly situated, and what we were asking for was special treatment for our nationals.

Fourth, I am troubled by protest banners that call for "Justice for OFWs on death row." Genuine OFWs must object to being lumped together with the drug mules. For certain they have similarities: the pressures of economic insecurity, their vulnerability in an alien land, the spirit of self-sacrifice for spouses, children and parents.

But the similarities end the moment the drug mules carry contraband on their persons and enter the Naia. By putting them all in one basket, we expose bona fide OFWs to increased monitoring (paid for by increased regulatory fees) for crimes not of their own making, and to increased harassment abroad by hostile and predatory airport officials.

Moreover, we confuse justice with mercy, or to be more precise, the Philippine brand with the Chinese brand of justice. We were surprised that in the Chinese Supreme Court, decisions can be final. We have been so used to eternal flip-flopping, the Filipino notion that due process of law means endless process. We also mistakenly thought that an unabashed plea for mercy unadorned by legal argument would suffice, and that human drama would trump legal doctrine as handily in China as it does in the Philippines.

EDITORIAL

China's message

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The public's consuming interest in the execution of Sally Ordinario-Villanueva, Ramon Credo and Elizabeth Batain was both melodramatic and inevitable. The three drug mules were the first Filipinos to be executed by China, and their personal narratives mirrored the stories and the self-image of millions of Filipinos, as hardy but unfortunate creatures of circumstance. Little wonder, then, that the news from China proved riveting, and the response of many Filipinos so personal.

But something else about the executions strikes us. The three Filipinos were caught in different cities and on separate days three years ago, and convicted on drug trafficking charges separately the following year. They were all executed, however, on the same day. Villanueva, 32, and Credo, 42, died by lethal injection in Xiamen; Batain, 38, was executed in Shenzhen.

This does not seem to be a quirk of judicial schedule, but a deliberate decision. Deliberate not only in the sense of China's rather ruthless bureaucratic efficiency but also in the sense of the Chinese government's policy intentions. Beijing wanted to send a message.

That China allowed such a public spectacle to happen must mean it is deadly serious about the drug problem attacking its cash-rich, transitional society—and is not afraid to use its geopolitical influence and regional ambitions to flex its muscles.

The same-day executions of Ordinario-Villanueva, Credo and Batain ought to serve as a wake-up call for both Filipinos traveling overseas and the Philippine government. The most important task, to use presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda's precise phrasing, is to break the "chain of victimization."

This means, concretely, preventing more Filipino workers who are traveling overseas, especially those highly vulnerable to economic pressure, from becoming willing or unwitting drug mules. Victimization may come directly through monetary inducements, or through the back door of ignorance. We can all help in the work of prevention, by spreading the word about the sometimes fatal consequences of drug smuggling, by forwarding any information we may have about drug trafficking operations to the authorities, by supporting much stricter pre-departure security checks to flush out contraband drugs.

Breaking the chain also means identifying those immigration, customs or airport officials who enabled drug syndicates large and small to victimize traveling workers. The authorities must conduct this investigation expeditiously and thoroughly, and then either remove erring officials or file the appropriate charges against them.

Not least, breaking the chain of victimization means running after the syndicates themselves. It does not seem likely that these victimizers were one-time drug traffickers; it is more likely that they form part of an international network of drug traffickers. Aided by leads and tip-offs from vigilant citizens, the government can crack down hard on these syndicates. That would be the best way to break the chain.



Passion For Reason

By RAUL PANGALANGAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

kets of fruits which are also very pretty. In some houses, they have hanging parasites alternating with cages of birds like canaries, linnets, etc. No serious or sad subjects, for some persons would get indigestion, and in truth they are right. When it's time to eat, eat well; when it's time to pray, pray well. Our dining room there, that is, the landing or antesala, could be decorated with parasites and plates, for we have neither paintings of landscapes nor big pictures. White plates are not used for decoration because they are confused with the wall. I remember that when we were small we had some plates with designs of little figures and landscapes on their hollows. For these I know that some would give even P5 each for they are now rare.

"The plates are hung in the following way: take three pieces of wire, their sizes depending on the weight or size of the objects they are to support, and they are bent at the end, for example, [sketch] and in this hook the edge of the plate is inserted; the three wires are joined at the back and a kind of ring is made to hang it on a nail so that in front it will look like this [sketch] and at the back [sketch]. The parasitic plants—in this we can excel all European houses, if we have good taste—are hung more easily. There are three ways of placing them:

Suspended, attached to a post, and in little baskets set on a table [sketches]. Generally iron wire is used because it becomes more beautiful as it becomes oxidized or rusty. This is easier for us because it doesn't cost money and there is an abundance of parasitic plants in our country, especially in our province.

"The flasks and bottles chosen are those that have fanciful shapes and if they are wrapped in straw like the demijohns, for example, the better. They are usually filled with black wine or colored liquor. The more covered with cobwebs in their corners these flasks are, the better they are. They are usually placed at a sufficient height and they are not usually moved from there. For this purpose they use a board attached to the wall in the following way [sketch]. On the dining table they usually place flowers in the middle alternately with the dishes of sweets, pickles and fruits. Today it is no longer customary, at least in Paris, to put big fruit dishes in the middle of the table. They used to put flowers in small glass dishes with water so that they will not wilt. In winter when flowers are very expensive, it is not unusual to see tables with half, or completely dry flowers, but over there, where it doesn't cost anything to have them fresh, they would be out of place."

Rizal antedated "Queer Eye," Martha Stewart and the Lifestyle channel on cable TV.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari



DONATIONS

Angel Ray T. Guerrero, standing rear center, and students of the Tanapag Elementary School pose with the educational toys and books he donated to the school on behalf of CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Angel Ray T. Guerrero, standing at rear right, and students of the San Vicente Elementary School show off the educational toys and books he donated to the school on behalf of CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ACLS TRAINING

Public Health and Hospital Preparedness Office director Warren Villagomez, center, poses with David A. Boer, second from left, and Don Jones, second from right, who facilitated a two-day advanced cardiac life support training at the Commonwealth Health Center. Others in photo are hospital personnel who participated in the training. Advanced cardiac life support, or ACLS, is a protocol for handling patients who are experiencing serious medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



OATH OF OFFICE

Meredith R. Callan takes her oath as an attorney before Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo on Wednesday. Callan passed the California Bar in November. She is currently working with the Office of the Attorney General as consumer and labor counsel.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



HELP FOR JAPAN

Saipan Rotary Club president Glen V. Perez, left, and Rotary double past president Dave Igitol, right, receive from Saipan resident Felipe Fejeren a generous donation for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Sendai, Japan.

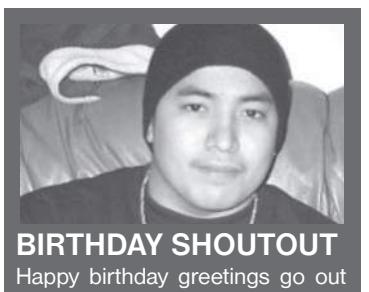
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



RIBBON-CUTTING

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, second from left, leads the ribbon-cutting for a newly completed enclosure of an electrical panel for the Kagman Water Well KG9 Wednesday morning. This is just one of the 36 enclosures of water wells' electrical panels in eight Saipan areas. From left, Emergency Management Office director Jack Omar, Fitial, ASC Corp. vice president Hao Xu, Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Mariano Iglesias, and U.S. Office of Insular Affairs' Keith Aughabenbaugh.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Frankie F. Mafnas, who is celebrating his special day today, April 2, 2011. May God bless you! With love and prayers, from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



DOING THEIR PART

Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association and the Marianas Visitors Authority conducted their quarterly cleanup of Laolao Beach dive site on March 31, 2011, where they bush cut the area and collected 40 lbs of trash. Picture from left are G4S staffer Eddie Saturno, Daishi Hiroki, and NMDOA president Toshi Yamaguchi. Not pictured is Japan Saipan Travel Association president Masanori Takahashi.

MVA



Seventeen members of Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association collected 30 lbs of trash at Grotto on March 28, 2011. Grotto is the most popular cavern dive on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

MVA

YoungStyle

At Archie's high school, a talk about drinking

By MATT MOORE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—There's a MADD Cowboy on the loose at Riverdale High, but that's no reason to panic.

The cowboy in question is Jason Witten, tight end for the NFL's Dallas Cowboys. And he's talking about the dangers of underage drinking as part of a Mothers Against Drunk Driving program that appeals not to just Archie, Jughead and the others, but to teenagers and parents in the real world, too.

"The whole idea here is prevention. To prevent kids from drinking," Victor Gorelick,

president and editor-in-chief of Archie Comics, told The Associated Press. "But a lot of parents know that this can be a big problem with teenagers, yet they have problems talking to their kids."

So, in a bid to help bridge that gap, MADD contacted Archie Comics about PowerTalk 21, an April 21 national event that seeks to have parents talking to their children about underage drinking.

"One of the things that was discussed was the possibility of doing a story, involving Jason Witten," Gorelick said. "Riverdale is his first stop and that he's going to other schools, too."

And that's what transpires in

"Archie Double Digest" No. 217, out this week in comic shops, which opens with prom around the corner and plans for a party with parents out of town.

"We've always tried to keep Archie up with the times," Gorelick said. "The story is not that long—only about eight pages, and it's entertaining, but it gets the message across at the same time."

That message is a frank and open talk about the perils of peer pressure and underage drinking, an issue that MADD CEO Kimberly Earle told AP was crucial in getting to teens and young adults.

"It's been a fantastic partnership and a fantastic way

ONLINE:

<http://www.archiecomics.com>
<http://www.madd.org>

to get the word out," she said of PowerTalk 21, adding they were able to "reach a whole new audience."

In this comic book page released by Archie Comics, an animated depiction of Dallas Cowboys TE Jason Witten appears in the "Archie Double Digest" N. 217 in a story that, in conjunction with the N.F.L. and Mothers Against Drunk Driving aims to educate readers about alcohol. The comic will be available on March 23.



AP

KIDS KRAFTS

Bendaroos wax poetic on candle

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

I am always looking for new ideas to help kids be creative. I saw a box of Bendaroos advertised on TV and wondered if they were as amazing as the commercial purported them to be.

They appeared fun to work with, so I decided to start with a simple flower project and decorate a vase as a Mother's Day gift. After some practice, the wax warmed slightly from the heat of my hand, making it easier to mold the sticks into the shapes I wanted.

Using a Bendaroos 500 Piece Mega Kit, I designed a few flowers on a hard work surface then transferred it to the vase.

The best thing about the product is that Bendaroos will stick to most hard surfaces without glue and will lift off when you want them to. I found the colorful, thin strings leave less residue behind than clay or other molding products. They don't stain and are advertised as being nontoxic. They should not be given to children younger than 3, and they should not be used around heat sources or open flames.

A Bendaroos 500 Piece Mega Kit retails for \$19.95. It contains 250 rainbow-colored sticks and 250 neon-colored sticks, colors that appeal to kids of all ages. They can be purchased online at <http://www.bendaroos.com> and at <http://www.amazon.com>, or at Walgreens drug stores.

Bendaroos are ideal to keep kids occupied when dining out or while traveling. They take up very little space and are easily transported in resealable packages that are separated by color.

I used the sticks to decorate a candle with a floral bouquet for a Mother's Day craft.

Work with the sticks until they become more pliable from the warmth of your hands. It will make the wax adhere better to itself and to the object you are decorating.

Supplies you will need:

- 1 pillar candle.
- 1 box Bendaroos wax sticks.
- Scissors.
- Paper.



PAUL TOPLE/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/MCT
On Mother's Day, brighten her day with this do-it-yourself candle.

■ Pencil.

Draw your design on a piece of paper, starting with the blossom.

Re-create the design by making the outline of the blossom on a hard work surface. Fill it in with different colors by cutting the sticks into smaller pieces and pushing them to fit in the spaces.

Attach the stems just under the center of the bottom of the blossom. Make leaves by bending a stick into two leaf shapes, or cut one in half to add one leaf at a time.

When you have your finished design, transfer the parts from your work surface to the candle starting with the stems.

Make sure you leave enough room between the stems for the leaves and room at the top for the blossoms.

The individual pieces may not stick easily, so you may need to warm the wax a bit by pushing down on the surface with your fingers.

Planter great gift for teacher

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

At first glance, you might wonder why a photo of a plant accompanies this week's Kids' Crafts column. If you are curious, you might turn to the caption under the photo for a clue in finding an answer. After that, if you are still interested in the topic, you might want to read the story.

When you are done reading, you will realize that the container holding the plant is the craft project this week and not the plant resting inside it. If you like what you see, you just might decide to follow the directions and make one like it.

Now, if you can do all those things, thank your teachers. They have given you the keys you'll need to be successful.

National Teacher Day, celebrated on May 9 this year, is a great time to express your gratitude. This year's theme "Great teachers make great



MCT
Give your teacher a beautiful plant in this decorative flower pot, made from wrapping paper and twine.

public schools," was chosen to draw attention to the hard work teachers do every day to help us succeed and live life well.

National Teacher Day began in 1944 when an Arkansas teacher, Mattye Whyte Woodridge, started a movement to set aside a day to honor teachers. She wrote a letter to Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, enlisting her to help persuade Congress to proclaim a national day for teachers.

Since 1985, American educators and their supporters have been celebrating the first full week each May as National Teachers Week. National Teacher Day is always Tuesday that week.

You can learn more about this topic at www.nea.org/teacherday on the Web. Give your teacher a beautiful plant in this decorative plant container as a gift he or she can keep from one year to the next. I found directions for this craft at various sites on the Web.

Supplies you will need:

- Small clay pot.
- Two identical paper dinner napkins or a full sheet of colorful tissue paper.
- Scissors.
- Raffia or twine.
- White craft glue.
- Mixing bowl and spoon.
- Straight pin.
- Water.

Pour $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of white glue into a bowl. Mix in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water and stir.

Turn your pot upside down in the sink.

Cut a full sheet of tissue paper in half, or unfold two napkins.

Dip the paper, one sheet at a time, into the glue mixture to soak completely.

Place the paper over the bottom of the pot, and over the outside covering the surface completely. Smooth the edges up and over the rim of the pot.

Gently pat the paper down so there are no air bubbles between the pot and the napkins. You can pop the bubbles with a pin to deflate them. Let dry.

Cut twine or pieces of raffia to tie around the pot and insert a plant.

If you have a craft idea or question, contact Kathy Antoniotti, P.O. Box 640, Akron OH 44309-0640; 330-996-3565; or via e-mail at kantonioti@thebeaconjournal.com.



HIDDEN IN THE ABOVE FRAME is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it counterclockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the letter "O," in the bottom left. Out of the frying pan and into the fire."

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A TONGUE TWISTER! "One day Esau Wood saw a saw saw wood as no other wood-saw Wood saw would saw wood. In fact, of all the wood-saws Wood ever saw saw wood, Wood never saw a wood-saw that would saw wood as the wood-saw Wood saw saw wood would saw wood and I never saw a wood-saw that would saw as the wood-saw Wood saw would saw until I saw Esau Wood saw wood with the wood-saw Wood saw saw wood." (How fast can you say that one out loud?)

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "GREETS." Can you replace these letters in the squares so that you have four 3-letter words across and three 4-letter words down? Time limit: 60 seconds.

Answers: (Across) Fog, ago, era, set (Down) Fees, agree, goal.



Answers: 1. Airdromes, 2. Armories, 3. Marbles, 4. Sphere, 5. Rafters, 6. Sam, 7. Sh.

Junior Whirl

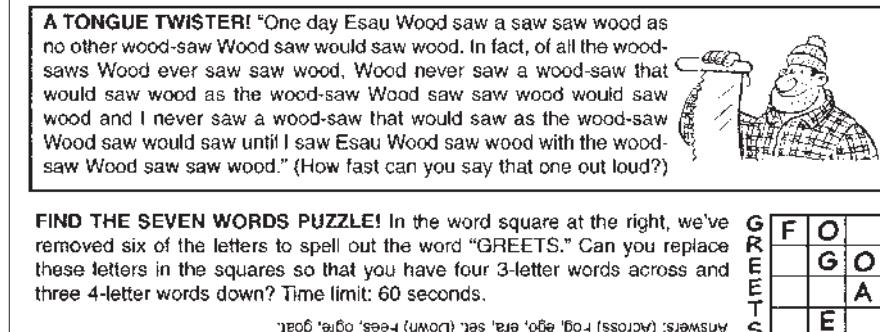
by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson

PYRAMID OF WORD POWER! You have three minutes to unlock the secrets of Word Power! Starting with the given word AIRDROMES, at the bottom of our pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with AIRDROMES.

1. Airports (given).
2. Military reserves headquarters.
3. What a minister does.
4. A rugged range of mountains.
5. A type of poker bet.
6. An Indian outer garment.
7. A form of polite address.
8. To exist; have life.
9. Symbol for iodine.



MAGIC MAZE ●

MAGIC MAZE

J K I F D A X V H D T Q O M J
H F C Y A H Y C A W U R P N L
J H F S C I T E M S O C D B Z
X V T R Q A R O O M O K I H F
D L B Z P P R Y L V W V T R Q
O N I E S L K I E C I H F P D
C A Y D H A I R P I E C E U Z
X E E E E P U O T S W L I E V
V B U S R P D I A D N A B K R
Q K S A M E G A L F U O M A C
O N T M K S N I A T R U C M T

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Band-Aid	Cosmetics	Hairpiece	Tarp
Bedsheet	Cover-up	Lid	Toupee
Camouflage	Curtains	Makeup	Veil
Conspiracy	Eye patch	Tablecloth	

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COVER IT UP

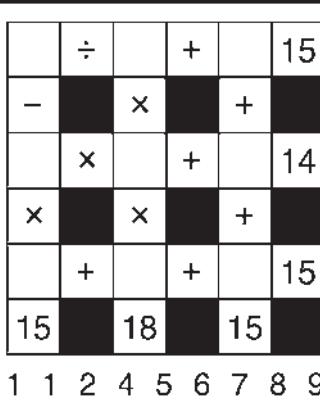
J K I F D A X V H D T Q O M J
H F C Y A H Y C A W U R P N L
J H F S C I T E M S O C D B Z
X V T R Q A R O O M O K I H F
D L B Z P P R Y L V W V T R Q
O N I E S L K I E C I H F P D
C A Y D H A I R P I E C E U Z
X E E E E P U O T S W L I E V
V B U S R P D I A D N A B K R
Q K S A M E G A L F U O M A C
O N T M K S N I A T R U C M T

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GO FIGURE!



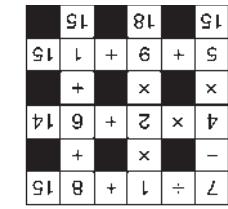
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DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!



GO FIGURE ANSWER



ANSWER

ANSWER

Thought for the Day: "First there is a time when we believe everything, then for a little while we believe with discrimination, then we believe nothing whatever, and then we believe everything again—and, moreover, give reasons why we believe."—Georg Christoph Lichtenberg

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Spring heralds start of flea season



DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I wanted to write to you about a flea remedy that works for us. My kids and I live in a rural area, and between our two houses have seven dogs and one calico cat. We used to have a very bad flea and tick problem until our local vet recommended using a product called Comfortis. This is a once-a-month tablet—the dosage is based on the weight of the dog—that costs much less than Frontline or similar flea and tick treatments. Since starting Comfortis our dogs have been flea- and tick-free.

Before we found this product, we would bathe our dogs and cats in a large tub of soapy water with 1/4 cup of Pine-Sol added. That also would kill fleas and ticks.—Louise C., Rison, Ark.

DEAR LOUISE: Thanks for the tip on the new flea and tick medication! Readers should consult their veterinarian about this medicine to make sure it's right for their dog, as like any drug taken internally or topically it may interact with other medications a dog may be taking.

However, I'm not wild about the Pine-Sol bath tip. That's a very strong cleaning solution that will dry a pet's skin, which causes irritation, and also removes natural oils on the skin that

help repel fleas. The only "household" soap I'd recommend would be Skin-So-Soft, and even that just once a month. Other than that, use a bath product formulated specifically for a dog or cat.

To further reduce a pet's chances of acquiring fleas and ticks, vacuum carpets at least twice weekly indoors and wash curtains and linens frequently. Outside, mow the lawn weekly so it's not as easy for pests to jump or drop onto a pet's fur.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions and tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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Doodle glass photo frames

Donna's Day

Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

child's interests at that time. For example, once my son framed a photo of himself triumphantly holding a big fish he'd just caught. He drew a lake, the sun and a fish jumping this way and that to show it had been a bright day and a big challenge to make that catch!

Other ideas? If it's a new baby, you might want to draw a bottle and bibs. If it's spring-break memories, draw activities that represent the trip.

4. While their artwork is drying, have the kids choose a piece of colored paper on which to mount their photo. Affix the photo to the paper, place it against the glass, clip on the back of the frame, and you have a wonderful "picture story" to hang on the wall.

Quick tip: It's not a great idea for preschoolers to handle glass. Instead, have them do all their doodling directly on the paper, including the squiggle line frame shape. Then frame it and hang it. They'll be totally thrilled!

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasdaday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

(c) 2011 Donna Erickson

Distributed by King Features Synd.

Life & Style

Russian billionaire buys \$100M Silicon Valley home

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The U.S. housing market may be struggling to regain its footing, but the \$100 million sale of a single-family home in the heart of Silicon Valley shows that luxury properties are still in demand.

Russian billionaire Yuri Milner, a big investor in Facebook, daily deal website Groupon and “Farmville” game maker Zynga, bought the lavish, 25,500-square-foot mansion in Los Altos Hills, Calif. The sale is believed to be one of the largest in U.S. history for a single-family home.

Donald Trump sold his Palm Beach mansion for \$100 million in 2008 to Russian fertilizer billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev. Trump told The Associated Press at the time that it was the largest estate sale ever in the U.S.

Milner, the 49-year-old founder of Internet investment firm Digital Sky Technologies and chairman of Mail.ru Group, has no immediate plans to move into the mansion, spokesman Leonid Solovyev told The AP. Solovyev and another spokesman for the billionaire declined



Exterior view of a \$100 million mansion in Los Altos Hills, Calif., Thursday, March 31, 2011.

The mansion's price tag dwarfs the \$50 million paid for the three-story, 48,000-square-foot Le Belvedere mansion in Bel Air last year, said Betty Graham, president of Coldwell Banker Previews International, which listed that property. Graham said the number of homes that sold for more than \$20 million last year in the Los Angeles area tripled from 2009, a sign that the luxury market has been strengthening.

“The smart money is back in real estate,” Graham said.

Still, at the highest end of the ultra-high price range, some homes remain unsold going on well more than a year.

At the top of the list is the 56,500-square-foot estate owned by the widow of the late TV producer Aaron Spelling. The French chateau-style mansion set in the exclusive Holmby Hills neighborhood of Los Angeles was placed on the market two years ago for a jaw-dropping \$150 million. A Beverly Hills, Calif., property known as Fleur de Lys has been on the market more than a year for \$125 million.

Nixon library offers candid new take on Watergate

YORBA LINDA, Calif. (AP)—For years, Richard Nixon’s presidential library was accused of committing another Watergate cover-up. But now, archivists say, the stonewalling is over.

The library opened an expanded new exhibit Thursday that scholars say provides a more balanced and accurate account of the scandal that brought down a president.

“The public deserves nonpartisan, objective presidential libraries,” said library director Tim Naftali, who alluded to the original display as “inaccurate and whitewashed.”

Among other things, the old exhibit portrayed Nixon’s epic downfall as a “coup” by his enemies and suggested the press behaved unethically in pursuing him.

The \$500,000 makeover was undertaken by the National Archives after it took control of the library in 2007 from the private organization of Nixon loyalists that had overseen the site since its opening in 1990.

The new display features sections called “Abuse of Power,” “The Cover-Up” and “Dirty Tricks,” complemented by taped interviews and text. In one interview, Nixon aide Alexander Haig, who died last year, says the president once asked him if he would be willing to burn White House tapes. “I said no,” Haig recalls.

Some material has never before been shown publicly, and it includes interviews with such figures as Watergate burglar G. Gordon Liddy and Nixon aide Charles Colson, who went to prison for crimes that came to light as the scandal unfolded.

Among the changes: the old exhibit blamed a “mechanical malfunction” for the notorious 18 1/2 minute gap on one White House tape, and added that Nixon enemies “wasted no time in finding sinister and devious motives” for the blank space. The new exhibit notes that audio experts identified five, and as many as nine, erasures on the tape.

The scandal began with a burglary at Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate Hotel complex in Washington, and eventually exposed widespread wrongdoing in

big concern during the building process. He would not comment on how much the seller, Fred Chan and his wife Annie, paid to build it.

“It did have a budget, it just went far beyond,” he said.

The estate has a ballroom, screening room, wine cellar,

gym, spa and pools inside and out.

“It has a beautiful rotunda in the entryway, flanked by stairs up both sides,” Hablinski said. “And a motor court that ensures security and privacy.”

The \$100 million price is based on the documented

transfer tax of \$110,000, which was provided to the AP by the Santa Clara County Assessor’s Office.

The Wall Street Journal reported the sale price Thursday. That followed a report on the deal last week in technology blog TechCrunch.

Singer Michael Buble weds TV star Luisana Lopilato

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Canadian pop star Michael Buble married Argentine TV actress Luisana Lopilato in a civil ceremony on Thursday.

The Grammy-winning singer of “Crazy Love” and his Argentine sweetheart posed for a mob of fans after tying the knot at a civil registry in downtown Buenos Aires.

She wore a lilac chiffon dress with silver high heels and Buble wore a sharp gray suit as he leaned down for a smooch.

Then Lopilato, 23, tossed a bouquet of purple orchids into the crowd as some fans threw rice and red rose petals and a young woman shouted “I love you Michael!”

Buble, 35, won his Grammy last month for traditional pop vocal album, and is one of North America’s top-grossing concert entertainers. Lo-

pilato made her name as a model and in Argentine sitcoms and soap operas, including “Rebel Way,” “Little Girls,” “Married With Children” and “Pirate Soul.”

The couple plan a full ceremony with 300 guests next month at a mansion outside Buenos Aires, and another wedding in Vancouver in April. They have homes in Canada, Los Angeles and Buenos Aires province.

Buble dated British actress Emily Blunt for several years before he met Lopilato in 2009 during a South American concert tour. Lopilato was romantically involved before with tennis player Juan Monaco.

With more than 500,000 fans and followers in Facebook and Twitter, Lopilato sent messages throughout the day, thanking her family and the media. “How beautiful it all was!” she wrote.

Billy Joel decides to cancel his memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—The Piano Man is deciding to stay silent: Billy Joel is cancelling his planned memoir. “The Book of Joel” was scheduled for publication in June. The HarperCollins book was billed as an “emotional ride” that would detail the music legend’s failed marriages, including his union with Christie Brinkley, as well as his battles with substance abuse.

Earlier this month, HarperCollins revealed the cover photograph for the book, and Joel’s editor promised it would contain details “he has never revealed before.”

But in a statement to The Associated Press on Thursday, Joel said he had changed his mind.

“It took working on writing a book to make me realize that I’m not all that interested in talking about the past, and that the best expression of my

life and its ups and downs has been and remains my music,” he said.

HarperCollins confirmed Thursday that the deal had been cancelled. Spokeswoman Tina Andreadis said that the book was well

into the editing process, but that Joel had not approved or finalized the text and that no copies had been printed. The publisher had planned a first printing of 250,000 copies.

Joel isn’t the first musician to cancel a book. Mick Jagger backed out of a deal in the early 1980s, saying he couldn’t remember anything of interest. Sean “P. Diddy” Combs never



Joel

turned in a memoir that he was supposed to write for Random House Inc. and ended up being sued in 2005 for money the publisher claimed he owed.

The 61-year-old Joel is considered one of music’s all-time greats: He’s a Rock and

Roll Hall of Famer who has sold millions with hits including “Uptown Girl,” “New York State of Mind” and “Just the Way You Are,” and his deal was widely believed to be worth seven figures.

Other rock stars have had major success with their memoirs, including Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton and, more recently, Keith Richards.

'American Idol' sends 2 finalists home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Naima Adedapo and Thia Megia are no longer standing on "American Idol."

The earthy 26-year-old dance instructor from Milwaukee and the breathy 16-year-old high

school student from Mountain House, Calif., were booted from the Fox talent competition Thursday after "Idol" host Ryan Seacrest revealed they garnered the fewest viewer votes following their respective attempts



In this Wednesday, March 30, 2011 photo released by Fox, Thia Megia performs in front of the judges on the singing competition series, "American Idol," in Los Angeles.

Wednesday of Elton John's "I'm Still Standing" and "Daniel."

Joining the duo in the bottom three was smiley 26-year-old singer-songwriter Paul McDonald from Nashville, Tenn., who sang "Rocket Man."

Adedapo and Megia were sent packing after the judges overturned viewers' votes last week to save quirky 20-year-old film camp counselor Casey Abrams. He redeemed himself Wednesday with a tender take on "Your Song."

"If you knew how many (votes) you got, you'd be very proud," Seacrest informed Abrams.

"Idol" judge Randy Jackson proclaimed Wednesday that Adedapo's reggae rendition of

"I'm Still Standing" was "kinda corny" and told Megia her choice of "Daniel" was "once again very safe." Before their dismissal, former "Idol" winner Fantasia crooned "Collard Greens and Cornbread" and the top 11 finalists split up for various duets and group performances.

The other remaining finalists are Lauren Alaina, 16, of Rossville, Ga.; James Durbin, 22, of Santa Cruz, Calif.; Stefano Langone, 21, of Kent, Wash.; Jacob Lusk, 23, of Compton, Calif.; Scotty McCreery, 17, of Garner, N.C.; Haley Reinhart, 20, of Wheeling, Ill.; and Pia Toscano, 22, of Howard Beach, N.Y. Another singer will be eliminated next week.

Shakira helps rebuild Haiti school

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI (AP)—Colombian singer Shakira danced with students in Haiti on Thursday as she celebrated the renovation of a historic Catholic girls school damaged in the country's devastating 2010 earthquake.

With her song "Waka Waka (This Time for Africa)" playing over loudspeakers, the Grammy-winning, hip-shaking pop star grooved with students from the Elie DuBois high school in downtown

Port-au-Prince.

Her Barefoot Foundation, which helps child victims of violence and disasters, and the Inter-American Development Bank each donated \$400,000 to restore the high school.

"I'm convinced that the key to a dignified future for Haiti is through education," said Shakira, 34, wearing a black T-shirt and matching jeans.

The nine-classroom, 250-student school was built in 1913, and was the first in Haiti to provide vocational training for girls, officials said. Construction is expected to begin in two months and will take up to 14 months to complete. Organizers have yet to put out bids.

Those involved attribute the cost to the expensive nature of building materials in the capital.

"Everything has to be imported," said Eric Cesal, an architect and program manager for Architecture for Humanity, an aid group that planned the school's restoration.

Youngsters were excited to meet Shakira and hear about their new school.

"It's so nice that we have a star coming and that she's coming to help the school," said Josselourdes Jean-Paul, a 19-year-old student. "With the new school, we're going to learn more and learn better."



In this Jan. 18, 2011 file photo, actress Betty White attends her 89th Birthday celebration hosted by TV Land, in New York.

The reality show's format has been licensed for the United States by Kinetic Content, which will produce the series for NBC in consultation with the original Belgian producer, Tim van Aelst.

An air date for the series was not announced.

Betty White to host new NBC reality show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The unstoppable Betty White is taking on reality TV with a hidden-camera show that turns senior citizens into merry pranksters. NBC has ordered 12 episodes of "Betty White's Off Their Rockers," the working title for a series based on a hit Belgian program that has been produced in other European countries and South Korea.

"People have been telling me that I'm 'off my rocker' for years—now I can prove it," White joked in a statement Thursday.

The reality show follows seven seniors who band together to play pranks on younger people, with White helping conspire to put one

The actress also stars in the TV Land sitcom "Hot in Cleveland," which has been renewed for a third season, and has a book, "If You Ask Me (And Of Course You Won't)," set for release in May.

The reality show's format

has been licensed for the United States by Kinetic Content,

which will produce the series for NBC in consultation with the original Belgian producer,

Tim van Aelst.

An air date for the series was

not announced.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Brooke Shields in 'The Addams Family' on Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—Bye, bye Bebe. Hello there, Brooke. Producers of "The Addams Family" on Broadway said Thursday that Bebe Neuwirth will give her final performance as Morticia on June 26 and her role will be taken over by Brooke Shields. Based on the cartoons that appeared for years in The New Yorker, the musical is in its second year at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre. The role of Gomez has already been handed over by Nathan Lane to Roger Rees. Shields has extensive Broadway credits, including playing Ruth in "Wonderful Town," Roxie Hart in "Chicago" and Sally

Bowles in "Cabaret." Last year she starred with Raul Esparza in Alan Menken's "Leap Of Faith" in Los Angeles. She will start in "The Addams Family" on June 28.

Ted Nugent talks turkey with Michigan governor

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—The Motor City Madman has talked turkey with One Tough Nerd. A spokeswoman for Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, the self-proclaimed "tough nerd," says he met Thursday with rocker and outspoken celebrity hunter Ted Nugent in the Republican governor's office. Nugent, a Michigan native, told reporters before the meeting that he seeks to loosen hunting regulations.

Among his pet-peves: the need for a license to hunt wild turkeys. Nugent says they're as plentiful as mosquitoes. He also criticized the requirement to keep a hunting bow in a zipped case during transport. Snyder spokeswoman Geralyn Lasher says the governor called it a "great conversation" and "a lot of fun" to meet with Nugent. She says the governor appreciates that Nugent is champion of Michigan and its outdoors.

'Mad Men' main man Weiner signs deal to stay on

NEW YORK (AP)—AMC's drama "Mad Men" will be back for two more seasons with creator Matthew Weiner

on board. AMC and the series' studio, Lionsgate Television Group, announced late Thursday that a deal has been struck with Weiner to stay on. Negotiations had extended for months, delaying the return of the show for its fifth season. This week, AMC acknowledged that "Mad Men" would not return until early 2012. The series has previously aired in the summer. Weiner has signed a new long-term contract with Lionsgate, providing for a possible seventh "Mad Men" season, the studio said. The much-acclaimed drama stars Jon Hamm as an advertising executive and divorced family man working in Manhattan in the 1960s.

Twin boys don't share same popularity among their peers

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have 10-year-old twin boys. "Frank" is popular with the boys in his class, while "Jake" has only one close friend, "Tommy." When Frank is invited to parties, sleepovers, movies, swimming and play dates, Jake is left out and never invited. Tommy is a great kid, but comes from a family that isn't very social. We invite Tommy to our home, but Jake isn't invited back.

I feel terrible when I see how sad Jake is when his brother is constantly going off to do fun things and he's left at home. We try to keep Jake busy with enjoyable activities when this happens, but it's not the same.

While Frank has a right to have his own friends, sometimes I feel I should say something to the parents about how much their leaving Jake out is hurting his feelings and self-confidence.

HEARTBROKEN MOM IN MISSOURI



Dear Abby

DEAR HEARTBROKEN MOM: I don't recommend saying anything to the parents of Frank's friends because it could backfire. Boys that age pick their own friends, and if Jake was forced on them, no one would be happy about it—including Jake. Instead, continue inviting Tommy over and explore activities outside of school where Jake can shine in his own right. That will do more for his self-confidence than tagging along with his brother where he really isn't wanted.

DEAR ABBY: My son "Marshall" is 36. He's handsome, has a great job, is a wonderful son and would be a tremendous "catch." The problem is Marshall has no interest in marriage or even dating. He was in a relationship six or seven years ago that ended badly. Since then, he has decided he doesn't want any woman getting close to him. He hasn't been on a date since.

Marshall spends his time hunting, fishing and playing/watching sports with his single and divorced friends. It doesn't help that the divorced friends tell him he's doing the right thing by staying single, and how they wish they had done the same thing.

Every time I raise the subject, he tells me he's happy with his life and doesn't want to change. How do I get through to him? My husband says we should let him do what he wants because it's his life. But I have trouble accepting that my son wants to stay single the rest of his life. Help!

PROTECTIVE MOM IN OHIO

DEAR MOM: That's understandable. You come from a generation in which marriage was the norm. However, in the decades since you were married there has been a slow (but steady) erosion in the percentage of Americans who think marriage is important.

Your son may have much to offer, but if he isn't interested in closeness, intimacy and partnership, he probably wouldn't be very good at it. So trust him, love him, and don't push him. Marriage, when it's a good one, is wonderful. But it is no longer a must, and more and more people are concluding it isn't for everyone.

DEAR ABBY: You often refer your readers who are troubled to doctors and clergy. Another reference to consider is the Human Resource professionals at their workplace. We offer a variety of programs to assist our employees with financial and family issues. We want healthy and happy employees.

HELPING HANDS IN CORTE MADERA, CALIF.

DEAR HELPING: With mental health services stressed to the max because of cutbacks, this is certainly a worthwhile option. Thank you for the suggestion.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



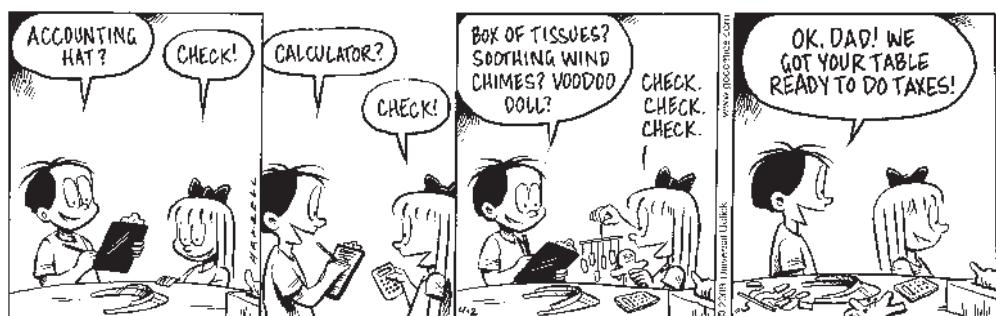
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



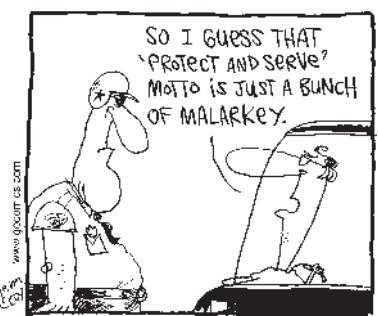
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	44	Fat	5	Very rapid	28	Resist change	
1	Sir's counter-part	46	Not "for here"	6	Faraway fleet?	30	No seats" sign
6	Of service	50	James Clavell novel	7	Mythical lecher	31	Blond shade
12	Tranquil	52	Aspiring doc's study	8	Will Smith biopic	33	Stephen of "The Crying Game"
13	Dormant	54	Manet or Monet	9	Crimson	34	Altar affirmative
14	Evoke	55	Gold compound	10	Misplace	39	News bulletin
15	Vain	56	Informational symbols	11	Basin accessory	41	Cubic meter
16	Icelandic volume	57	Adolescents	12	Witness	42	Unescorted
17	Uncompli-cated			18	One more	43	"My Name Is —"
19	"— the fields we go"			21	NYSE debut	45	Picnic invaders
20	Emerald City visitor			23	Summer mo.	47	Muscat's land
22	"Awe-some!"			24	Fuss	48	Understands
24	Mimic			25	"Married ... With Children"	49	Rhyming encomium
27	Experts			26	Infinite time	51	"Great Expectations" hero
29	Bear up there?			4	Blackbird	53	Wish undone
32	Comerica Park team						
35	Curved molding						
36	Ballot punchout						
37	Homer's interjec-tion						
38	U.K. fliers						
40	Grandson of Adam						
42	D.C. VIP						



Yesterday's answer 4-2

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Christopher Meloni, 50; Emmylou Harris, 64; Linda Hunt, 66; Leon Russell, 69

Happy Birthday: Your insight won't let you down. Your partnerships may teeter, requiring more attention to make sure you are all on the same page. Don't assume anything or you will meet with disappointment. This is not the year to take anything or anyone for granted. 3, 12, 22, 26, 30, 34, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep busy. You'll be overly sensitive to what's going on around you and must not leave yourself too much time to ponder over what's said or done. Gear your schedule toward self-improvement, pampering and enjoyment. ☀☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): There is too much that is still unknown for you to make a good decision or choice. Ask questions but do not force the issue. Professional uncertainty may be unnerving but wait it out rather than responding negatively. ☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Getting involved in a cause you believe in will provide connections to help you in other areas. Suggestions made will spark greater enthusiasm in a job or project that has potential. You will reap personal and professional rewards. ☀☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Hold off making any decisions or changes that can alter the way you live or the arrangements you have with a personal or professional group. The wrong move will cause a loss. Contain your feelings and focus on something you enjoy. ☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The sky's the limit, so go after whatever you want. Travel, business and discussing personal and professional goals will lead to a firm commitment from someone you need in your corner to move ahead. A financial gain is heading your way. ☀☀☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't get trapped in someone else's problem, especially if there is money involved. You can offer advice but do not pay for someone else's mistake. You may want to make a few changes to your personal papers or accumulated assets. ☀☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's important to make the most of this opportunity-filled day. A partnership can be made or broken, depending on how you see it unfolding and whether or not it's to your advantage. Do what needs to be done. ☀☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Spruce up your living quarters to make someone you love feel more comfortable. A change in your routine or starting a new interest will expand your friendships and give you plenty to think about. Your talents can bring in extra money. ☀☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let your emotions get the better of you. You cannot allow anyone to manipulate you. Focus on what you enjoy doing and on the people you have the most fun with. A physical or mental challenge is where you should put your effort. ☀

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will



EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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have a problem with a friend, relative or neighbor if you try forcing your will or your way. Avoid confrontation with anyone who has the potential to make you look bad or who can force you to conform to rules you don't approve of. ☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can come up with some brilliant ideas regarding ways to earn more cash. Connect with people from your past. Greater opportunity will develop out of necessity and demand. Time and energy put into earning a living will pay off and bring you greater freedom. ☀☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put a halt on someone trying to push his or her way into your world. Speak frankly about what you expect. If the person you are dealing with cannot offer you what you want, walk away. You'll have plenty of other opportunities. ☀☀

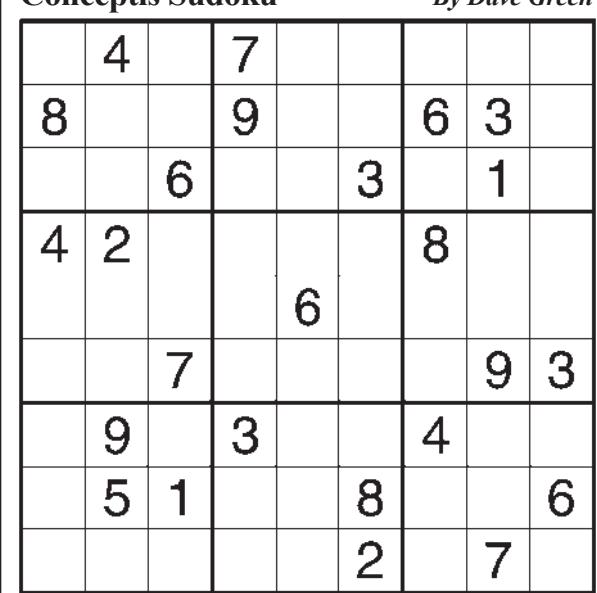
Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, intuitive and always where the action is. You are spontaneous and have a vivid imagination.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

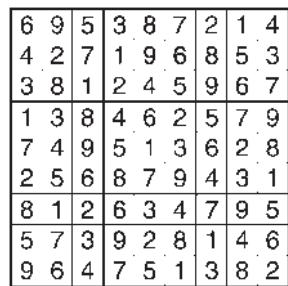
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ANTHEM

Solution: 11 letters

C	H	O	S	E	N	N	O	I	S	A	C	C	O	T
O	O	I	T	N	E	M	N	R	E	V	O	G	K	C
M	C	R	S	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	N	C	E	
P	E	R	T	Y	D	O	L	E	M	S	E	O	P	
E	R	S	E	E	O	S	S	A	M	I	T	L	R	
T	E	E	E	B	S	R	C	O	A	A	E	E	E	
I	M	T	S	M	M	P	Y	P	R	L	T	B	C	
T	O	A	I	I	A	E	O	O	C	U	R	O	A	
I	N	T	R	R	D	P	M	N	H	C	T	A	G	
O	Y	S	A	N	U	E	R	D	A	I	T	N	L	
N	P	D	A	L	M	O	N	I	R	S	O	I	I	
M	E	T	A	M	M	A	E	T	D	I	N	O	T	
Y	S	R	O	C	I	N	O	C	I	E	T	N	I	
H	I	C	O	S	E	I	T	I	L	A	M	R	O	
N	T	R	A	D	I	T	N	A	L	O	G	N	L	

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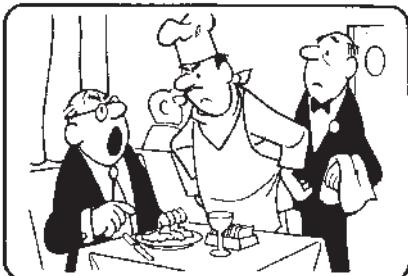
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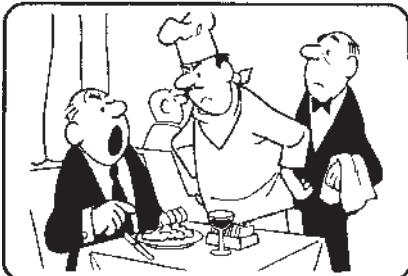
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Waiter's dress is shorter.
2. Glasses are gone. 3. Door is missing. 4. The glass is black. 5. Chair is missing. 6. Glasses are gone. 7. Wine glass is missing. 8. Chair is shorter.

Wishing Well®

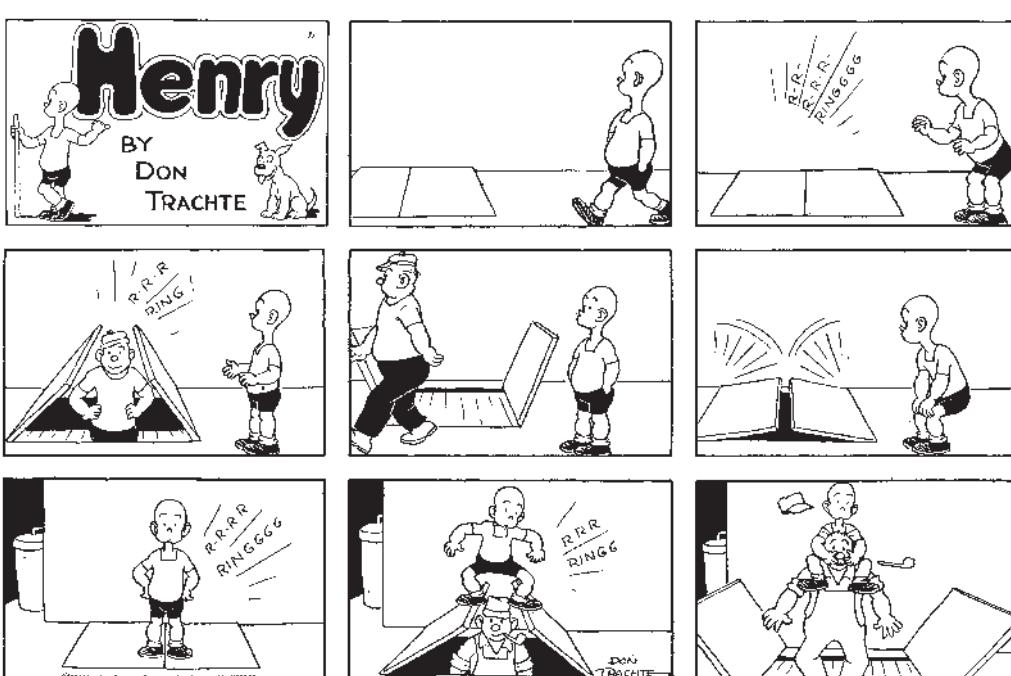
6	2	5	2	4	5	6	3	5	8	4	5	2
P	A	F	N	P	A	R	L	M	K	R	I	E
6	7	2	3	5	4	7	6	5	3	8	4	5
O	B	W	I	L	O	E	B	Y	F	E	N	V
2	3	7	4	2	7	4	6	5	4	6	8	7
B	E	L	O	E	I	U	L	I	N	E	E	E
3	4	7	4	7	4	6	4	2	6	2	3	6
I	C	V	E	E	D	M	L	G	S	I	N	O
8	6	5	3	6	8	6	3	6	8	3	4	7
P	L	S	B	V	C	E	A	D	H	L	O	Y
8	5	4	7	4	7	5	3	5	3	7	2	7
I	I	V	O	E	U	T	A	S	N	R	N	H
8	3	2	3	7	8	7	8	2	7	2	7	2
N	C	N	E	E	U	A	P	I	R	N	T	G

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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They'll Do It Every Time



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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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36 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011

Alomar,
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elected to
Hall of Fame

32

Saipan Tribune Sports

Rondo, Celtics
on to beat Spu
31



Minor wins doubles in Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roseyln.monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament.

Minor teamed up with fellow Pacific Oceans in the doubles event—Curtis McDonald Wednesday.

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011

Volume XXI, Issue No. 5

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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By JAYNE VALLEJERA
jvallejera@saipantribune.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The

Speaker Channel predicted near-freezing weather for Jan. 5, the day the 112th Congress was to be sworn in. What D.C. got was a blindingly sunny day, with hardly a cloud to mar

the cobalt blue sky. In fact, it was chillier inside the capitol, when outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was preparing to hand over the gavel to the new speaker, John Boehner (R-Ohio). When Pelosi began enumerating the accomplishments of the 111th Congress under her leadership, the Republican side of the House was

enough to cause icicles to form on the ceiling. The GOP, after all, campaigned—and won—on a platform to undo most of what the Democratic-led 111th Congress accomplished.

Pelosi's farewell speech was punctuated by applause some 19 times b

clapping of the aisle about f

Dodgers beat World Series champion Giants



LOS ANGELES (AP)—

Clayton Kershaw struck out nine in seven dominant innings and Matt Kemp scored the go-ahead run on a throwing error by catcher Buster Posey in the sixth, sending the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 2-1 victory over the defending World Series champion San Francisco Giants in their season opener Thursday night.

Kershaw (1-0) allowed four hits and walked one in his first opening-day start. The 23-year-old left-hander struck out three of the four batters he faced in the first, giving him 500 strikeouts in his career.

Jonathan Broxton, back in the closer's role after losing it in the second half of last season, gave up a one-out homer to Pat Burrell in the ninth but hung on for the save after a scoreless eighth by Hong-Chih Kuo.

Former Yankees star Don Mattingly won his managerial debut for the Dodgers, making him the first rookie manager to beat the defending World Series champions on opening day since Lou Piniella debuted with the Yankees on April 8, 1986.

Frank McCourt watched from the owner's box as his legal tussle with ex-wife Jamie McCourt over ownership of the Dodgers continues into a second season.

Tim Lincecum (0-1) gave up an unearned run and five hits in seven innings for San Francisco. The two-time Cy Young Award winner struck out five and walked three in his third consecutive opening-day start.

The right-hander was in control throughout, but his defense let him down in the sixth.

Kemp walked with one out and James Loney followed with a grounder to shortstop Miguel Tejada, who threw the ball away trying for the force, allowing Kemp to take third. Lincecum hit former teammate Juan Uribe in the hip with his next pitch to load the bases.

Posey, the NL Rookie of the Year last season, blocked a pitch in the dirt and tried to pick off Kemp, who took too big of a lead. The throw got past Pablo Sando-



AP
Los Angeles Dodgers right fielder Tony Gwynn, left, center fielder Matt Kemp, center, and right fielder Andre Ethier celebrate after the Dodgers defeated the San Francisco Giants, 2-1, in a baseball game Thursday, March 31, 2011, in Los Angeles.

val, allowing Kemp to score.

Reds 7, Brewers 6

At Cincinnati, Ramon Hernandez hit a two-out, three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth to rally Cincinnati past Milwaukee 7-6 in an opening-day flashback to their National League Central title season.

The Brewers became the first team in 42 years to open the season with successive homers when Rickie Weeks and Carlos Gomez connected off Edinson Volquez. Ryan Braun also had a solo shot, helping Milwaukee

take a 6-3 lead to the ninth.

But Cincinnati loaded the bases with none out, and after closer John Axford fanned Jay Bruce and got Jonny Gomes to hit a sacrifice fly, Hernandez hit an opposite-field homer into the Brewers' bullpen, his fourth hit of the game.

Drew Stubbs and Joey Votto also hit solo homers for the Reds.

Padres 5, Cardinals 3, 11 innings

At St. Louis, Cameron Maybin leveled the score with a two-out

homer in the ninth inning and grounded a single that led to the go-ahead run in the 11th, lifting San Diego to the victory.

Albert Pujols, the Dominican star who could by playing his final season in St. Louis, grounded into a career-worst three double plays while going 0 for 5. The three-time National League Most Valuable Player cut off contract negotiations at the start of spring training and could be a free agent this fall.

Shortstop Ryan Theriot's fielding error in his St. Louis

counts of making false statements and obstruction of justice for telling a federal grand jury in 2003 that Anderson never provided him with steroids and human growth hormone, and that only physicians injected him.

Wearing a boyish shirt and purple necktie, her long, braided hair pulled back, Hoskins accused her brother—former Bonds' business partner Steve Hoskins—of telling her story to federal prosecutors, causing her to have to testify against Bonds. "He threw me under the bus," she said.

In his last question to her, Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Parrella asked Hoskins: "Are

Bonds is charged with four

you testifying here just to back your brother up?"

"Absolutely not," she said before adding, with tears dripping down her face and voice breaking up, "I was put in the middle of it."

Dr. Don Catlin, former head of the UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory, then testified about his 2006 discovery of Tetrahydrogestrinone (THG), the designed steroid known as "the clear" Bonds' urine sample, which was negative for steroids in baseball's 2003 survey test, was positive for THG three years later after Catlin's lab developed a test and also for the female fertility drug clomiphene.

debut allowed the go-ahead run to score.

Matt Holliday homered in the eighth and had three hits for St. Louis.

Pat Neshek (1-0) pitched one inning for the win. Heath Bell closed for the save.

Braves 2, Nationals 0

At Washington, Chipper Jones returned from major knee surgery to score the 2011 MLB season's first run on a chilly opening day and help make Fredi Gonzalez a winner in his debut as Atlanta's manager.

The Braves played their first regular-season game since Bobby Cox retired at the end of 2010 after two decades—and 15 playoff appearances—as their skipper.

With his sinker in fine, darting form, Derek Lowe (1-0) allowed three singles in 5 2-3 innings.

Brian McCann drove in Jones with a single off Livan Hernandez (0-1) in the first, and Jason Heyward led off the second with a homer.

Yankees 6, Tigers 3

At New York, Curtis Granderson hit the winning homer and Mark Teixeira had a three-run shot off Justin Verlander to lift New York over the Detroit Tigers 6-3 on Thursday in the first regular-season game played in the Bronx in March.

Yankees starter CC Sabathia pitched six innings, Derek Jeter added a sacrifice fly in the sev-

enth using his new stride-less swing and Mariano Rivera earned his first save and 560th of his career.

Granderson homered for the third straight opener. He connected against former Yankee Phil Coke (0-1) as New York embarked on its first full season without George Steinbrenner as owner since 1973.

The Tigers tied it 3-3 in the fifth, but Granderson led off the seventh with his go-ahead homer in the first Yankees-Tigers opener in New York in 45 years.

Angels 4, Royals 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, Torii Hunter and Jeff Mathis homered to help Los Angeles win its season opener.

Jered Weaver (1-0) allowed two singles to Melky Cabrera over 6 1-3 innings, improving to 3-0 in his last four starts against Kansas City. The 2010 MLB strikeout leader fanned six and walked two as the Angels won their opener for the seventh time in eight years.

Hunter and Mathis hit solo shots off Luke Hochevar (0-1), who pitched 5 2-3 innings and gave up four runs in his first opening-day start.

Kansas City had a chance to take the lead in the ninth, with runners at the corners and two outs, but Alex Gordon barely missed a home run before Fernando Rodney struck him out for the save.

Jeff Francoeur and Mike Aviles homered for the Royals.

Mitt and mittens: Baseball off to a chilly start

WASHINGTON (AP)—With a hot beverage cup in both hands and a white parka pulled over her hooded sweat shirt, Marie Denissen was more than happy to be at Nationals Park.

Chilly weather? No worries. Heck, it was opening day.

"It's still great," said Denissen, from Highland, Md., during Thursday's game between the Atlanta Braves and Washington Nationals. "You just have to have coffee instead of beer."

Pretty much the sentiment all across the majors. Get out your mitts—and mittens—and let's play ball.

Chipper Jones was ready, even though it was 41 degrees and damp in Washington. The ol' pro got the first hit of the 2011 season with a double, and later scored the first run as Atlanta won 2-0 before a non-sellout crowd.

At Yankee Stadium, there was a box of winter hats for players in the New York clubhouse. It was 42 degrees and misty for the first-ever March game in the Bronx.

Rapper Jay-Z bundled up with his version of a "ballparka"—hoodie and coat—and there were pockets of empty seats as the Detroit Tigers took

on the Yankees. Derek Jeter blew on his hands in the batter's box, even though he already had batting gloves.

The concession stand that seemed to be doing the best business at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City was Sheridan's hot chocolate. Fans bundled against the chill, lined up five-deep, before the Royals hosted the Los Angeles Angels.

Mark Allred, a retired electrician from Kansas City, Mo., sat on the first-base side about 15 rows from the field. The forecast called for highs around 50, with a 50 percent chance of rain and light winds.

"It's too bad we don't have a nice day for this. It's always such an exciting time," Allred said. "Fans like me have been looking forward to baseball all the long winter and now it still feels like winter. But I don't really care. Bring on the first pitch!"

It was 41 degrees for the first pitch at Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati—better than the previous day, when the Milwaukee Brewers and Reds worked out in the snow.

Reds pitcher Edinson Volquez warmed up wearing a red-hooded sweat shirt and players took batting practice in stocking caps.

Former aide says she saw trainer inject Bonds

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Tears streaming from her eyes, Barry Bonds' former personal shopper became the first and only one of the government's 23 witnesses at his federal trial to say she saw the all-time home run leader getting an injection from his trainer.

Kathy Hoskins was the first eyewitness to testify that Bonds' personal trainer—Greg Anderson, who was later convicted of dealing steroids—jected the slugger. She said Thursday that the scene unfolded at Bonds' well-appointed Bay Area home in 2002. As part of her job, she packed the baseball star's clothes for road trips.

Anderson came into the bedroom as she was filling a suitcase.

"Barry was like, 'Let's do it right here,'" she testified, using a tissue to repeatedly dab at her eyes and brow.

"This is Kathy. That's my girl. She ain't going to say nothing to nobody," she quoted Bonds as saying. "So Greg shot him in the belly button."

"It was a regular, normal-size syringe," she said.

Hoskins said she didn't ask about the injection, but Bonds volunteered that it was "a little something, something for when I go on the road. You can't detect it. You can't catch it."

Bonds is charged with four

counts of making false statements and obstruction of justice for telling a federal grand jury in 2003 that Anderson never provided him with steroids and human growth hormone, and that only physicians injected him.

Wearing a boyish shirt and purple necktie, her long, braided hair pulled back, Hoskins accused her brother—former Bonds' business partner Steve Hoskins—of telling her story to federal prosecutors, causing her to have to testify against Bonds. "He threw me under the bus," she said.

In his last question to her, Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Parrella asked Hoskins: "Are

Celtics snap funk, hand Spurs 5th straight loss



SAN ANTONIO
(AP)—Rajon Rondo had 22 points and 14 assists, Paul Pierce scored 21 and the Boston Celtics stopped slipping further from first in the Eastern Conference, beating the slumping San Antonio Spurs 107-97 on Thursday night.

Kevin Garnett added 20 points and the Celtics, winning for just the second time in five games, moved within two games of Chicago for the No. 1 playoff seed in the East.

The Spurs remained stuck in an untimely tailspin, losing their fifth straight. The NBA's winningest team is in danger of falling out of first place after comfortably being No. 1 in the West all season.

Tony Parker led the Spurs with 23 points and Tim Duncan, playing for the first time in five games after spraining his ankle last week, had 20 points and 13 rebounds.

The Celtics celebrated the return of their own big man: center Jermaine O'Neal. The 14-year veteran played for the first time since January after having arthroscopic surgery on his left knee. He scored 5 points in 11 minutes and hit his only two shots.

"We need him back," said Celtics coach Doc Rivers before the game, alluding to his depleted frontcourt that is still without Shaquille O'Neal. "And we need the minutes."

Pierce also had 11 rebounds and Glen Davis scored 16 points as Boston had four players in double figures.

The Celtics broke open a tie



HOUSTON (AP)—VCU arrived at the Final Four with its team, its bandwagon and its T-shirt. "There goes my bracket," it says—an oh-so-fitting statement printed in gold letters and sandwiched between the school logo and the picture of a crumpled-up piece of paper.

Indeed, almost anyone who wins an office pool this year will limp home to their victory. Hardly anyone saw this coming.

But for VCU, Butler, Connecticut and Kentucky, all of whom got their first look at the court tucked inside of Reliant Stadium on Thursday, this is a time to act like they expected it all along, to focus on winning a national championship that hardly seemed likely when the first ball was tipped back in October.

Back then, VCU was listed as a 5,000-1 longshot in Vegas.

Butler was figuring out how to replace NBA-bound forward Gordon Hayward and dream up a second act after almost winning it all last year, only six miles from its tiny campus in Indianapolis.

Connecticut was picked 10th in the Big East.

Kentucky was gearing up for a transition year after losing five key players to the NBA

Unexpected foursome arrives for Final Four

and freshman Enes Kanter to eligibility issues while awaiting a killer recruiting class for 2011-12.

"I never thought we'd be sitting here," Butler coach Brad Stevens said when asked what he thought of his team's prospects in February, when the Bulldogs were 14-9 with a three-game losing streak. "But the season starts in October and it goes until at least March 1. You're supposed to get better. It's hard. But if you have guys willing to work through it, it can happen."

In the first semifinal Saturday, eighth-seeded Butler (27-9) will play 11th-seeded VCU (23-11), in a matchup of underdog mid-majors that some might consider more fitting for the Maui Invitational than a Final Four bracket.

In the second game, it's No. 3 Connecticut (30-9) vs. No. 4 Kentucky (29-8) in the rematch of a game that really was on the schedule in Maui. UConn won 84-67 back on Nov. 24. A trip to Houston wasn't on anyone's mind back then.

"That game showed what we

could be and certainly what John needed to fix," UConn coach Jim Calhoun said of Kentucky's John Calipari. "It turned out, I needed to fix some things, too, but it was later because the problems showed up in the Big East."

All these teams had problems during big portions of this season. All got better and started peaking around the beginning of March. That has culminated in probably the most inconceivable foursome in Final Four history—

not a single No. 1 or 2 seed for the first time ever, and a group of teams chosen by a grand total of three people out of more than 8 million entrants in bracket contests run by ESPN and Yahoo.

"At first, it was the selection and how we shouldn't be in the tournament," VCU point guard Joey Rodriguez said. "Then it became, we can't do this in this game, we won't be able to do that in that game. We keep proving people wrong, and now, we're here."

Like so many players from schools in smaller conferences,

the VCU group remembers watching last year's Duke-Butler final, seeing the Bulldogs fall a bounce short of the championship and thinking, sure, that could be them. Sort of the same way people dream about winning the lottery.

Led by 33-year-old coach Shaka Smart, the Rams went only 12-6 and finished fourth in the Colonial Athletic Association. They wound up as one of the last teams placed in the tournament bracket. They took immense flak from Jay Bilas, Dick Vitale and a whole group in the bracketology set who called VCU undeserving when its name showed up and teams such as Colorado and Virginia Tech were left out. The Rams answered by winning five games on their road to the Final Four by an average of 12 points.

Now, they're celebrities, across the nation and around their own campus—located in Richmond, Va., with enrollment of 32,000, about the same size as George Mason, the Vir-

ginia school that also made the Final Four as an 11 seed back in 2006.

The Celtics arrived in San Antonio after losing to Indiana, Charlotte and Memphis in three of their last four games. Two weeks ago, Boston (52-22) was tied for first place in the East.

Miami has also crawled back into contention for first, sitting a half-game behind Boston, but a big win against the toughest opponent they've seen in weeks kept the Celtics ahead of the Heat.

Then again, the Spurs aren't looking so tough lately.

San Antonio (57-18) didn't panic after losing four games with Duncan sidelined. But not even its starting five back and healthy could help the Spurs stop their season-worst skid.

The Spurs had nine losses at the All-Star break. They've dropped more than half that number of games in the past week alone.

"It happens to everybody. And this is about the worst time it could happen, at the end of the year," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said before tipoff. "If it has to happen, you want it to happen 30 games in so you can get back and recover. So we got to step on it."

They better.

San Antonio's woes have renewed hopes the Los

Angeles Lakers and Dallas have of taking the No. 1 seed. The Lakers were 3 games back and hosted the Mavericks—who were 3 1/2 games behind the Spurs—later Thursday night.

Manu Ginobili, who sat out Monday's loss against Portland with a left quad contusion, had nine points on just 4-of-13 shooting. Richard Jefferson added 14 points.

Lakers 110, Mavericks 82

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 28 points, Andrew Bynum had 18 points and 13 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers defeated the Dallas Mavericks 110-82 in a testy affair in which four players were ejected Thursday night.

Early in the fourth quarter, the Lakers' Matt Barnes and the Mavericks' Jason Terry and Brendan Haywood were thrown out following an altercation under the basket. Los Angeles' Shannon Brown was later ejected in a separate incident.

The late skirmish didn't take away from the Lakers' 16th win in 17 games since the All-Star break, helping them pull within 2 1/2 games of slumping San Antonio for the NBA's top overall record.

Dirk Nowitzki had 27 points and 13 rebounds for the Mavericks, whose five-game winning streak ended.

Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce, left, drives around San Antonio Spurs' Manu Ginobili, of Argentina, during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, March 31, 2011, in San Antonio.

AP



in the tournament), the Wildcats returned to the Final Four for the first time since they last won it all, in 1998.

"This team went from me dragging them to them dragging me," Calipari said. "They became empowered, and that's when they became special. They know it now. They get it."

The Huskies are a young team led by junior Kemba Walker, a guard from the Bronx who has added a nice mid-range and 3-point-shooting game to his repertoire and has averaged 26 points a game since UConn went on a remarkable postseason run. The Huskies, who finished the Big East at 9-9, won five straight in the conference tournament and four more in the NCAA.

UConn is in the Final Four for the second time in three years. In 2009, it was expected. This time, it's a surprise. That places the Huskies in familiar company this week.

"My freshman year, everyone was like, 'You're going to make the Final Four,'" Walker said. "This time, I didn't know if we were going to make it. We were underdogs almost the whole year. To make it the way we made it, it's kind of special."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**NBA STANDINGS****EASTERN CONFERENCE****Atlantic Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	52	22	.703	
Philadelphia	39	36	.520	13 1/2
New York	37	38	.493	15 1/2
New Jersey	23	51	.311	29
Toronto	20	54	.270	32

Southeast Division

x-Miami	52	23	.693	
x-Orlando	47	28	.627	5
x-Atlanta	43	32	.573	9
Charlotte	32	42	.432	19 1/2
Washington	18	56	.243	33 1/2

Central Division

y-Chicago	54	20	.730	
Indiana	34	42	.447	21
Milwaukee	30	44	.405	24
Detroit	26	48	.351	28
Cleveland	15	59	.203	39

WESTERN CONFERENCE**Southwest Division**

x-San Antonio	57	18	.760	
x-Dallas	53	22	.707	4
New Orleans	43	32	.573	14
Memphis	42	33	.560	15
Houston	39	36	.520	18

Northwest Division

x-Oklahoma City	50	24	.676	
Denver	45	29	.608	5
Portland	43	32	.573	7 1/2
Utah	36	39	.480	14 1/2
Minnesota	17	58	.227	33 1/2

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Lakers	54	20	.730	
Phoenix	36	38	.486	18
Golden State	32	44	.421	23
L.A. Clippers	29	46	.387	25 1/2
Sacramento	21	53	.284	33

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

Yesterday's GamesBoston 107, San Antonio 97
L.A. Lakers 109, Dallas 82**MLB STANDINGS****NATIONAL LEAGUE****East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	1	0	1.000	-
Florida	0	0	.000	1/2
New York	0	0	.000	1/2
Philadelphia	0	0	.000	1/2
Washington	0	1	.000	1

Central Division

Cincinnati	1	0	1.000	-
Chicago	0	0	.000	1/2
Houston	0	0	.000	1/2
Pittsburgh	0	0	.000	1/2
Milwaukee	0	1	.000	1
St. Louis	0	1	.000	1

West Division

Los Angeles	1	0	1.000	-
San Diego	1	0	1.000	-
Arizona	0	0	.000	1/2
Colorado	0	0	.000	1/2
San Francisco	0	1	.000	1

AMERICAN LEAGUE**East Division**

New York	1	0	1.000	-
Baltimore	0	0	.000	1/2
Boston	0	0	.000	1/2
Tampa Bay	0	0	.000	1/2
Toronto	0	0	.000	1/2

Central Division

Chicago	0	0	.000	-
Cleveland	0	0	.000	-
Minnesota	0	0	.000	-
Detroit	0	1	.000	1/2
Kansas City	0	1	.000	1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	1	0	1.000	-
Oakland	0	0	.000	1/2
Seattle	0	0	.000	1/2
Texas	0	0	.000	1/2

Yesterday's GamesAtlanta 2, Washington 0
Cincinnati 7, Milwaukee 6
San Diego 5, St. Louis 3, 11 innings
L.A. Dodgers 2, San Francisco 1
N.Y. Yankees 6, Detroit 3
L.A. Angels 4, Kansas City 2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pacquiao-Marquez fight gathers steam



MANILA—With no other marquee contenders on the horizon, Juan Manuel Marquez may yet get a third crack at pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao.

Interviewed by Manila-based sportswriters in Baguio City, Top Rank chief Bob Arum bared that a Pacquiao-Marquez trilogy makes the most sense financially, assuming that Pacquiao beats Shane Mosley on May 7 and Pacquiao-Mayweather doesn't push through.

"You come back really to Marquez," said Arum, who left yesterday for Las

Vegas. "A draw and a close loss to Manny—that seems to be the most attractive fight."

In their first showdown in Las Vegas in 2004, Marquez recovered from three first-round knockdowns to salvage a draw with Pacquiao.

They met again in 2008, with Pacquiao prevailing by split decision with a knockdown of the Mexican to boot.

According to Arum, the Pacquiao-Marquez rematch at Mandalay Bay gave him the most goose bumps as the fight unfolded in an electrifying atmosphere.

The 79-year-old Arum added that a Pacquiao-Marquez III "will also give



time for either (Timothy) Bradley or Andre (Berto) to get their names out there, and win another fight or two. Whoever becomes more impressive over the rest of this year can probably be considered as a Pacquiao opponent in 2012."

Arum explained that he didn't put Marquez ahead of Mosley simply because of economics.

"I didn't want to do that fight before Mosley because I'm reaching out to this vast audience on CBS. So I needed an English-speaking opponent."

The only problem that may arise is the catch weight for the fight and how much Marquez is going to get.

Pacquiao now fights at 147 pounds, while Marquez holds court at 135 lb. When Marquez fought Mayweather at a catch weight of 144 last year, the Mexican appeared sluggish and was beaten by the American. (PDI)

Wang wins last Battle of Champions qualifier

Jimmy Wang secured the last ticket to the VFW Post 3457 Battle of Champions 9-Ball Tournament after topping the final qualifier last weekend.

Wang prevailed in the 15-player draw despite coming from the loser's bracket. He dropped his opening match against Rolly Villanueva to fall to the loser's



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hand Spurs 5th
straight loss*

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*Dodgers beat
World Series
champion Giants*

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Schroeder hat-trick lifts Paire to win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Jason Schroeder scored three goals to power Paire Football Club to a 4-1 win over Baek Du San during their Division A game in the 2011 NMIFA Men's Invitational Football League on Thursday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The former member of the CNMI National Team put Paire in the score-board with his goal in the 15th minute and then found the back of the net anew in the 35th minute to lift his team to a 2-0 halftime lead.



in the 35th minute to lift his team to a 2-0 halftime lead.

Two minutes after the second half started, Baek Du San threatened a comeback, as it score its first goal and cut the deficit to one, 1-2. However, Ropati Tonuu brought the lead back to two, 3-1,

See SCHROEDER on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jason Schroeder, seen here against a KFAS defender during a fall league, scored three goals in Paire's 4-1 win over Baek Du San during their game in the NMIFA men's league on Thursday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Mojica recalls eventful Saipan Sportsfest

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2011 Saipan Sportsfest is one for the books and organizer Taga, Inc. hopes to lure more triathletes for next year's XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon.

"Next year's events will be on March 24 for the XTERRA Saipan

Championship and March 31 for the Tagaman. We hope to bring in more people next year since we have suggested to athletes coming from the U.S. mainland, Canada, Europe, and Australia, to buy cheap fares to Manila and participate in the XTERRA Philippines, and then get a good fare from Manila to Guam/Saipan to participate in our two races," Taga, Inc. president Wolf Mojica said.

Last month's XTERRA drew 104
See MOJICA on Page 27

Jeff Race, left, and Renata Bucher, sprint to the finish line of last month's Tagaman Triathlon.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Week 2 of PIC tennis tourney moved

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Competition in the 11th Annual PIC Tennis Championships this weekend at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts has been moved to next week due to the uncooperative weather.

"I've decided to cancel the tennis tournament this weekend due to the unplayable weather. The tournament will resume the following weekend or on April 8 to 10," tournament director Dennis Tababa said in an email to

Saipan Tribune.

Games in Week 2 of the two-weekend tournament were scheduled Friday afternoon but it rained almost the whole day and weather forecast for Saturday and Sunday also indicated scattered rains will hit the island. Week 2 competition will feature the junior doubles and adults singles divisions.

The men's open singles has four entries in Jeff Race, Peter Loyola, Bobby Cruz, and junior netter Rafael Jones.

See WEEK on Page 27

Christian Miller eyes the ball during his championship game against Jake Lee in the boys U15 singles division of the PIC tennis tournament last week at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Wanted: Fighters for Art of War 6

Trench Tech Purebred Promotions is still accepting fighters for the Art of War 6: Grappling and Submission Challenge that will take place on April 23 at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.

The event is open to fighters who knows Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, judo, and wrestling techniques.



TRENCH TECH®

Both male and female fighters are allowed to enter the event. Weight categories include bantamweight (115-135 lbs), featherweight (136-145 lbs), lightweight (146-155 lbs), welterweight (156-170 lbs), middleweight (171-185 lbs), light heavyweight (186-205 lbs), and heavyweight (206 lbs and up). Entrance fee is only \$10 per fighter, per class, and the Top 3 winners in each category will receive medals.

The grappling and submission bouts will run from 4pm to 9pm and the public is invited to watch the event. Entrance fee is only \$5

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